NEW LOOK!

WORLD SOCCER®

Ahead of the game

SEPTEMBER 2003 £3.50
AUSTRALIA $ 9.95 CANADA $ 9.50 USA $ 7.50
AOL Keyword: World Soccer
Printed in the UK
www.worldsoccer.com

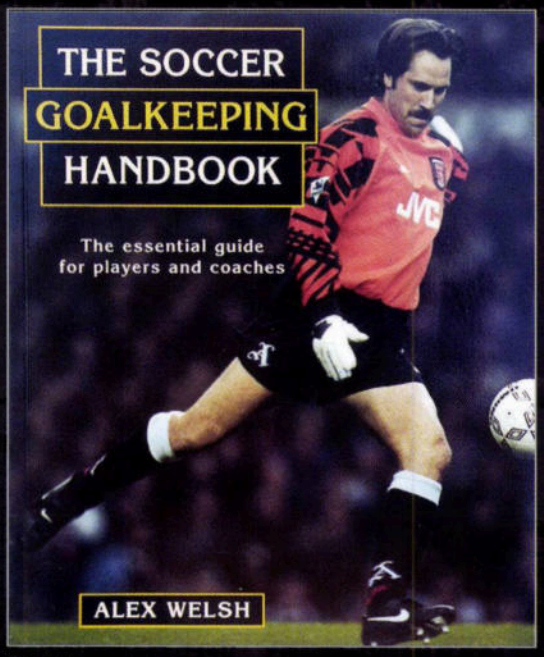
SPECIAL COLLECTOR'S ISSUE

- 140 pages
- Squad lists
- Champions League teams
- Players to watch
- Fixtures

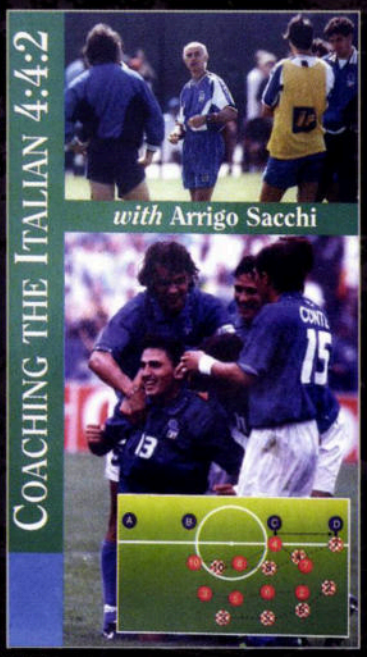
Everything you need to follow the new season in Europe and the Champions League

THE STARS... THE TEAMS... THE ULTIMATE GUIDE

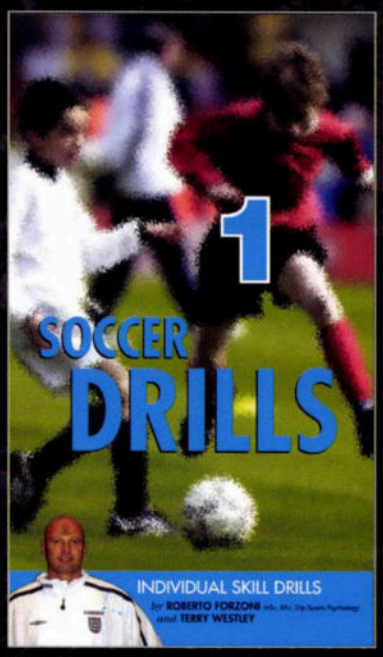
208 team previews
21 top player profiles
& news from over
60 countries



Books



Video's



DVD's

Training equipment

Kit

Accessories

With over 700 coaching and training products in stock we are the only football store a coach will ever need.
www.forsport.com - the store for sport.

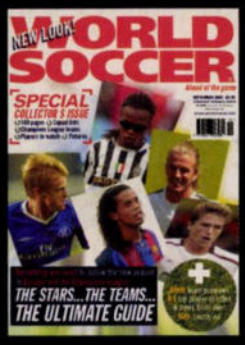
Forsport are dedicated to providing only the best football equipment for you

Check out our complete range of football products on our web site or call and talk to one of the team.

Order Hotline
0044 (0)20 8658 2007
Order Online
www.forsport.co.uk

Forsport is run by footballers for footballers.
Nobody knows this game better.

FORSPORT



SEPTEMBER 2003 VOL.43 NO.13

EDITOR
Gavin Hamilton
ART EDITOR
Gary Payne
PRODUCTION EDITOR
Peter Neish
PICTURE EDITOR
Duncan Bond
NEWS EDITOR
Jamie Rainbow
EDITORIAL SECRETARY
June Hiscock
PICTURES
Empics, Allsport, Reuters, PA Photos

Thanks this issue to
Mike Hughes, David Rallis, Matt Parselle

EDITORIAL
King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street,
London SE1 9LS
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7261 5737
Fax: +44 (0) 20 7261 7474
E-mail: world_soccer@ipcmedia.com

ADVERTISING
Greg Dunbar, Simon Gerard,
Michael McConaghy
ADVERTORIALS AND SPONSORSHIP
Dan Yeadon
PRODUCTION MANAGER Tom Jennings

MANAGING DIRECTOR Sylvia Auton
PUBLISHING DIRECTOR Hamish Dawson
PUBLISHER Fiona Mercer

Display Ads +44 (0) 20 7261 5499
Classified Ads +44 (0) 20 7261 2823
Insert sales +44 (0) 20 7261 7710
Back issues +44 (0) 20 8532 3628 (tel)
+44 (0) 20 8519 3695 (fax)
Binders +44 (0) 20 8519 3969

International licensing enquiries
+44 (0) 20 7261 7715 or 7082
E-mail: Siriliya_Nawalkar@ipcmedia.com

ipc COUNTRY & LEISURE MEDIA

SUBSCRIPTIONS
ORDER HOTLINE
+44 (0) 1622 778 778
E-mail: ipcsubs@qss-uk.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS RATES
Annual subscription is for 12 months
(13 issues, prices include postage) UK: £36.40
Europe/Eire (inc. VAT): 77.76euros (airmail)
USA: $89.65 (airmail)
Rest of world: £63 (airmail)

SUBSCRIPTIONS DEPARTMENT
Rockwood House,
9-17 Perrymount Road, Haywards Heath,
West Sussex RH16 3DH, England
Tel: +44 (0) 1444 475 675

WORLD SOCCER is a member of
ESM EUROPEAN SPORTS MAGAZINES
● A Bola (Portugal) ● Don Balon (Spain) ● Fanatik (Turkey) ● Foot (Belgium) ● Kicker (Germany) ● La Gazzetta dello Sport (Italy) ● Sport Express (Russia) ● Voetbal International (Holland) ● World Soccer (UK)

SEPTEMBER 2003

comment

NO WORLD CUP, no European Championship, no Copa America. But summer 2003 may well be remembered as one of the most significant in the history of the game.

We've had the extraordinary events at Chelsea. But in the rush to welcome the Russian revolution at Stamford Bridge, should we not be asking questions about who runs our game?

The Harry Kewell transfer to Liverpool is a case in point. The new chairman of Leeds, Professor John McKenzie – a respected academic who has turned round many ailing businesses but is new to the eccentricities of the football transfer market – was as good as laughed out of town when he questioned why Liverpool paid £5m for Kewell, but Leeds received only £3m. No point, I suppose, asking Bernie Mandic, the unlicensed agent whose company is alleged to have pocketed £2m from the deal.

Where is the regulation? Where is the leadership – from all levels of the game – that is so desperately needed? There are many aspects of American sports that I find incomprehensible – not least the franchise system. But at least there are enough controls in place to ensure that a Roman Abramovich cannot walk in off the street and attempt to buy success in an instant.

Football is too important, touching too many people's lives, for its administration to be left to the whims and vagaries of the free market.

The summer of 2003, for me, was encapsulated by coverage of two very different events. David Beckham's presentation at Real Madrid received more column inches than the tragic death of Marc-Vivien Foe.

Thank goodness we can now get on with the real action on the pitch. But it is hard to escape the feeling that football is fast becoming a sport that knows the price of everything and the value of nothing.

PS. I hope you like the changes we have made this month. As with previous collector's editions we have raised the cover price to pay for the extra pages. We're back to normal price next month.

Gavin Hamilton, Editor (gavin_hamilton@ipcmedia.com)

*** SAVE MONEY ON WORLD SOCCER SEE OUR SPECIAL SUBSCRIPTION OFFER ON PAGE 38

contents

SEPTEMBER 2003 VOL 43 NO 13

COVER STORY

43 The new season in Europe
44 Austria
45 Belgium
46 England

54 France
60 Germany
66 Greece
67 Holland
68 Italy
76 Portugal
77 Scotland
78 Spain
86 Switzerland
87 Turkey
88 Champions League

DISPATCHES

14 Spain
16 Italy
18 England
20 Germany
22 France
24 Brazil
26 Argentina
28 United States

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

32 Tim Howard
34 Damien Duff
36 Michael Ballack

TALENT SCOUT

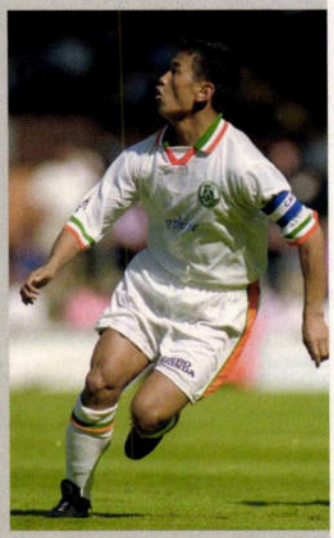
112 Xabi Alonso
113 Alex Brosque
114 Erick Delgado
115 Philippe Senderos
115 Hamit Altintop
116 Florent Sinama-Pongolle
116 Anthony Le Tallec
117 Gabriel Milito

REGULARS

10 Brian Glanville
12 Paul Gardner
40 Keir Radnedge
92 Letters
94 Football Memories

DIGEST

96 UK
98 Europe
104 Americas
108 Africa
110 Asia/Oceania
123 World Service



LIFE AFTER UNITED

UNITED STATES: Major League Soccer gets back to business after the distraction of Manchester United's Stateside summer tour. Page 28

In for the long haul

SOUTH AMERICA: The continent's 18-round qualifying campaign for the 2006 World Cup kicks off in September. **Page 104**

The clampdown begins

BRAZIL: After years of ignoring the situation, the authorities are finally taking action to reduce violent play. **Page 24**

THE NEW SEASON IN EUROPE

Clubs from Austria to Ukraine are setting out on a new campaign – at home and in the Champions League. **Page 43**

The Chelski revolution continues

ENGLAND: Russian Roman Abramovich has carried on spending, taking the total amount splashed out on acquiring Chelsea, clearing debts and buying new players to more than £220m. **Page 6**

Makaay boosts Bayern firepower

GERMANY: Dutchman Roy Makaay, last season's ESM Golden Shoe winner, joined Bayern Munich after protracted negotiations with Spanish club Deportivo La Coruna. **Page 20**

Stars head to the Middle East

QATAR: European stars looking for one final payday are heading to Qatar, where the federation, financed by the royal family, are keen to overtake Dubai as the region's highest-profile footballing centre. **Page 110**

MARINOS TAKE FIRST STAGE

JAPAN: In the most exciting end to a title race in the 10-year history of the J.League, Yokohama F Marinos triumphed over Jubilo Iwata. Page 110

MADRID BACK TO FACE MUSIC

SPAIN: Real Madrid are back home and preparing for the new Liga season after their hectic, but lucrative, summer tour of the Far East. Page 14

Ghaddafi and the Libyan connection

LIBYA: Al-Saadi Ghaddafi – son of the dictator, vice-president of the Libyan FA and now a player with Italy's Perugia – is the latest figure to join African football's long list of eccentric characters. **Page 108**

Court chaos over Catania

ITALY: The battle over Catania's relegation from Serie B threatens to overshadow the start of the season. **Page 16**

New billionaire in town...Abramovich, his wife Irina and two of their children watch Chelsea play Roma in a pre-season friendly

The man from nowhere

Roman Abramovich looks set to change the face of European football. Gavin Hamilton reports

VIRTUALLY OVERNIGHT, Roman Abramovich has become one of the most powerful men in European football.

His £140million acquisition of Chelsea (£60m in shares plus £80m debt clearance), and additional £80m (so far) on players, is unprecedented in world football. Nobody, anywhere, has ever spent so much money, so quickly, on a football club.

Abramovich's impact has been all the more extraordinary because he has no previous connection with football and was unknown outside Russia. Even more amazingly, the money spent so far appears to be of little consequence to a man reportedly worth billions.

£220m? Small change for a man with big ambitions.

The great irony is that Abramovich should settle on Chelsea, having also considered buying Manchester United and Tottenham. Chelsea, the great underachievers of English football, the King's Road playboys with just one League title, in 1955, to their name. The club who have turned flattering to deceive into an art form.

Yet there is nothing deceptive about the millions lashed out by Abramovich. His investment – "for as long as it takes," he says – could turn out to be one of the most significant developments in the history of the game.

Football is no stranger to sugar daddies, of course, from Jack

Walker at Blackburn to Silvio Berlusconi at Milan. But Abramovich has arrived after a decade in which European football has slavishly allied itself to corporate interests in a bid to raise funds.

Yet over the past year, the pay-TV bubble having burst, those investors have discovered to their cost that, Manchester United aside, putting money into a football club is not a profitable enterprise.

European football's financial downturn has spared few countries or clubs. Many of the most lavish spenders are in danger of going under. Lazio – who suffered when parent company Cirio's debts became overwhelming – have survived only thanks to the intervention of a new, private, investor. Leeds – who over-extended themselves in a bid to build on their success in reaching the 2001 Champions League semi-finals – have been forced to sell nearly all of their most valuable playing assets.

Chelsea, with huge debts from the Chelsea Village project, were close to going under – another victim of the football boom that turned to bust.

And then along came Abramovich.

Just as clubs across the continent were learning to live within their means, and players and their agents were accepting lower wages and shorter contracts, Abramovich has single-handedly reflated the transfer market.

Early suggestions that Abramovich would be a cautious investor, reluctant to spend money on new players, have proved well wide of the mark. Almost every day through August, it seemed a new star would arrive at Stamford Bridge.

The list of names bought so far – Glen Johnson, Geremi, Wayne Bridge, Damien Duff, Joe Cole, Juan Veron, Adrian Mutu – is not quite the A list of European talent that some have made out. But, on paper, only Real Madrid, Bayern Munich, Manchester United, Juventus and Milan have stronger squads.

Transfer market domination

Chelsea have been responsible for almost half of the business done in this summer's transfer market. Italian clubs, desperate to reduce their soaring wage bills, have been conspicuous by their absence. That has left only Manchester United (Kleberson, Cristiano Ronaldo), Bayern Munich (Makaay, Demichelis), Barcelona (Ronaldinho) and Real Madrid (Beckham) as serious spenders. Even then, Barcelona look like they have stretched themselves with the £20m purchase of Ronaldinho.

Is Abramovich taking advantage of a depressed market to make a clever investment, or is he just investing in Chelsea for fun? And why did a 36-year-old, who has never played football and whose only other involvement in sport is an investment in Omsk Avangard ice hockey club, decide to buy Chelsea?

Abramovich says he took the decision to invest in English football while watching Man United beat Real Madrid 4-3 at Old Trafford in April. ("A truly beautiful game," he called it.)

Who can doubt such admirable statements? Well the Russians, for a start.

Sergei Stepashin, the head of Russia's parliamentary spending watchdog, the Audit Chamber, has alleged that Abramovich's oil company, Sibneft, has avoided paying £200m-worth of taxes. "That's where the spare money for Chelsea came from," Stepashin was quoted as saying by *Kommersant*.

Yet few people in England have questioned Abramovich's credentials. Tony Banks, the maverick former Sports Minister and Chelsea fan, was a lone critic, saying: "I don't think people should be allowed to just take over a club unless we know more about them. We need to know rather more about Roman Abramovich before saying this is a good deal.

"Just who have we invited to the table?"

Though there is no suggestion that Abramovich has acted illegally in his business affairs, doubts remain about the long-term motivation for his investment in Chelsea. Why has someone, who shuns publicity and is not prone to excess in his private life, lavished so much money on a football club?

London life

One explanation is that Abramovich wants to move his life – business, social and family – to London. In particular, he wants his five children, who are outnumbered by bodyguards wherever they travel, to be educated in England. "You have hundreds of years of educational excellence, and you can't argue with that," he said.

"Yes, I know what people say," Abramovich said in a recent BBC interview. "But there are lots of rich, young people in Russia. We don't live that long, so we earn it and spend it.

"I'm realising my dream of owning a top football club. Some will doubt my motives, others will think I'm crazy."

'There are lots of rich, young people in Russia. We don't live that long, so we earn it and spend it'

FACT FILE

Name Roman Abramovich
Country Russia

- Aged 36. Married with five children.
- Parents died before he was four; adopted by his uncle.
- Made his first serious money in the early 1990s as an oil trader.
- Rose to prominence as a protege of Boris Berezovsky, the most powerful of the Russian 'oligarchs'. Together, they created Sibneft, composed partly of former Soviet state assets, which has become the world's fourth largest oil company. Has since fallen out with Berezovsky, a sworn enemy of Russian president Vladimir Putin and who is now in exile in London.
- Owns half of Rusal, the world's second largest aluminium company.
- Also owns Russia's largest meat-packing and bacon-processing plant, and ICN, a California-based pharmaceutical company.
- Active in politics as governor of Chukotka, a region of Siberia close to the Arctic circle, where he has invested his own money in building thousands of new homes.
- A tee-total non-smoker, he considers himself "a Jew first and a Russian second".
- Divides his time between a country estate outside Moscow, a villa in Nice, an estate in Sussex and a house in Chukotka.
- Estimated to be worth between $5.7billion (Forbes) and $6.3billion (Sunday Times).

Tim Howard joins Man United after being granted a work permit

15/07/03

Cuba are beaten 3-0 by Costa Rica in the final Group D match of the CONCACAF Gold Cup in Foxboro

16/07/03

Al-Saadi Ghaddafi makes his debut for Italian club Perugia in a friendly against Folgaria

16/07/03

Lazio and Chelsea meet in a friendly in Rome

18/07/03

WS WORLD SOCCER Good month...bad month...

Red for go...Jeffers is dismissed by referee Steve Bennett as his team-mates protest in vain

good...

HAMIT ALTINTOP, the Turkish Under-21 international who scored twice on his Bundesliga debut for Schalke.

TIM HOWARD, penalty-saving hero for Manchester United against Arsenal in the Community Shield.

MICHAEL BALLACK, voted German Footballer of the Year for the second consecutive time.

CRISTIANO RONALDO, the Portuguese teenager handed David Beckham's No 7 shirt following his £12m transfer from Sporting Lisbon to Manchester United.

BORA MILUTINOVIC, confirmed as coach of Honduras, the latest contract for the much-travelled Serb.

DAVID BECKHAM, the star of Real Madrid's tour of the Far East. One Chinese hotel even auctioned off his used bed linen to the highest bidder.

bad...

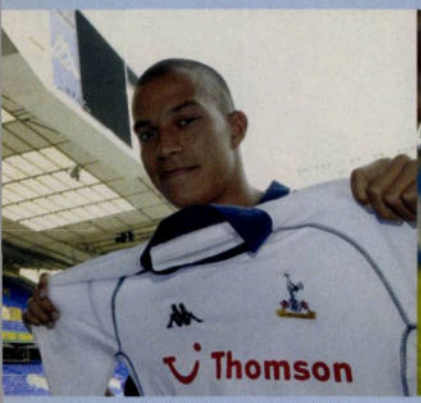
BURKHARD ZIESE, the German sacked as coach of Ghana after failing to steer them into next year's African Nations Cup finals.

REAL OVIEDO, the former Spanish top division side facing relegation to the Fourth Division because of debts.

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER, snubbed by Manchester United, who declined to play an MLS side on their much-heralded Stateside tour.

WEST HAM FANS, facing up to life outside the Premiership without Joe Cole, Glen Johnson, Frederic Kanoute and Trevor Sinclair, all sold to clear debts.

FRANCIS JEFFERS of Arsenal, sent off in the Community Shield, the 50th red card of Arsene Wenger's seven-year reign at Highbury.



England Under-21 striker Bobby Zamora signs for Tottenham

18/07/03

In MLS action, Chicago Fire beat New England Revolution 3-1

19/07/03

Heerenveen and Lierse meet in the third round of the InterToto Cup

19/07/03

So farewell, then...

Gentle giant...Guy Thys

● GUY THYS, the coach who led Belgium into three World Cups, has died from cancer, aged 80. The gentle, affable man maintained his interest in the game even when he started suffering several months ago.

His greatest achievements were steering Belgium to the 1980 European Championship Final – which they lost 2-1 to West Germany – and their fourth place in the 1986 World Cup in Mexico after losing to Argentina in the semi-finals.

Thys coached the national team in 114 matches in two spells. Taking charge for the first time in May 1976, he lasted 101 matches until June 1989. After the short, ill-fated reign of Walter Meeuws, the federation asked Thys to resume in the hot seat for another 13 games, although he was by then in his late 60s. His national teams won 50 games, drew 27 and lost 37.

Thys, born in Antwerp on December 6, 1922, played for Cercle Brugge, who later gave him his first coaching job. He also played for and coached Lokeren, and led Royal Antwerp to finish runners-up in both League and Cup in 1975.

Nicholas Harling

● RAY HARFORD, one of English football's most respected coaches, has died from cancer, aged 58. Harford achieved success with Luton, winning the 1988 League Cup, then in 1995 succeeded Kenny Dalglish as Blackburn manager, a role with which he was not entirely comfortable. He was far happier coaching, which he did to great effect with Fulham, Luton, Blackburn, West Brom, QPR and Millwall.

● JIMMY DAVIS, the promising young striker on loan at Watford from Manchester United, has died in a car crash, aged 21.

● LESLEY MANYATHELA, the 22-year-old Orlando Pirates striker and one of the brightest prospects in South Africa, has died in a car crash. He won nine caps, scoring three goals.

● AUDRIUS SLEKYS, a striker with Lithuanian champions FBK Kaunas, has died, aged 28, following a car accident.

● HELMUT RAHN, tempestuous hero of West Germany's shock 1954 World Cup triumph, has died aged 74.

Rahn, born on August 16, 1929, played for Altenessen, Olde 09 and Sportfreunde Katernberg before turning professional with Rot-Weiss Essen. He moved on to Koln and Enschede (Holland), and wound down his career with Duisburg just as the Bundesliga started in the early 1960s.

Rahn's name entered football legend because of his immensely powerful shooting from outside-right – an attribute that cost Hungary dear in the 1954 World Cup Final. Rahn scored to make the score 2-2 and then the winner with only minutes remaining.

Yet Rahn, enfant terrible of the German game, might not have even been at the finals. He had been on a South American tour with Rot-Weiss and was discussing a transfer to Nacional of Uruguay when national coach Sepp Herberger sent a telegram summoning him home.

In total, Rahn scored 21 goals in 40 internationals.

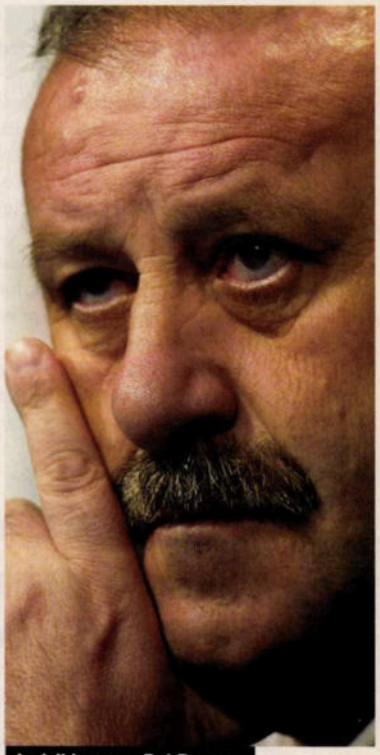
● JOAO FERREIRA, better known by his nickname Bigode and a member of the Brazil team beaten by Uruguay in the 1950 World Cup Final, has died, aged 81.

The left-back played in five of the hosts' six matches at those finals. The bulk of his club career was spent with Fluminense.

Notes & quotes

"The game with Brazil will be the most important of our lifetime."
Colombia coach Francisco Maturana on what it will mean to beat the world champions in their opening World Cup 2006 qualifier.

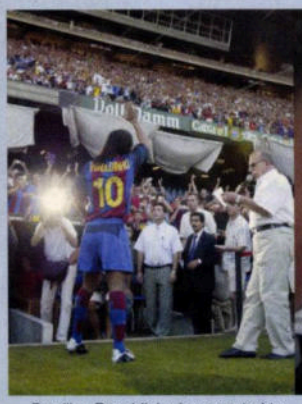
"I don't know what Mexico did to be in fifth place."
Roma coach Fabio Capello rubbishes the FIFA world rankings.



Invisible man...Del Bosque

"I have noticed recently in the club media, the magazine, the internet pages and TV that there is no mention of me."
Sacked Real Madrid coach Vicente Del Bosque claims his former employers are trying to airbrush out his achievements.

"My injury cured in three days."
Argentina defender Gabriel Milito signs for Zaragoza after failing a medical at Real Madrid.

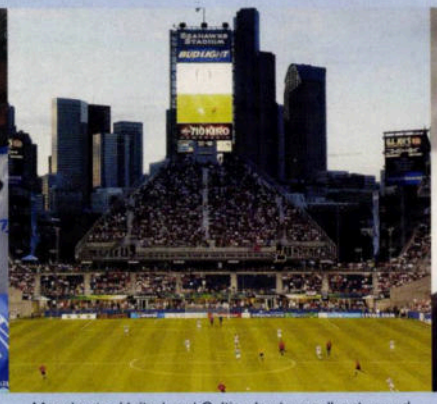


Brazilian Ronaldinho is presented to the Camp Nou fans in Barcelona

21/07/03

Damien Duff, Chelsea's record signing at £17m from Blackburn Rovers, checks in at Stamford Bridge

22/07/03



Manchester United and Celtic play to a sell-out crowd in Seattle on the first leg of United's USA tour

22/07/03

Gregorio Manzano is unveiled as the new coach of Atletico Madrid

25/07/03

WS WORLD SOCCER Brian Glanville

The Arsenal stadium mystery...rights and wrongs of player imports...buying your way to success...the replica shirts rip-off

Pity poor Arsenal!

HARD not to feel sorry for Arsenal. Unless of course you are a Tottenham or a Manchester United supporter. Sorry, because it seems so sad that they are forced to leave Highbury stadium, which between the wars became a beacon and an example to the English game, which is still an admirable venue, but thanks to the Taylor Report and its consequences, can now alas be nothing but a burden.

In pre-war days when people stood, the stadium could – and did at times – take 72,000. Even after the war when, having been bombed and used as an ARP headquarters, the stadium opened again, it could hold 62,000.

Now, as we know, it takes a meagre 38,000, while Old Trafford has been enlarged to the tune of 67,000, and those seats are usually all filled. Clearly the monetary gap must get bigger and bigger, even if the going of David Beckham may torpedo United's rich Far Eastern market.

In their desperation, Arsenal have turned to what we might now call the black hole of Ashburton Grove, both literally and metaphorically, since down that hole pour millions and millions of pounds.

To build a far bigger stadium so close to the old one made plenty of sense in prospect but little or none at the moment. Costs have been rocketing all the time, not least thanks to the delays. Residents and businesses have had to be moved and compensated. Some locals still mean to fight on against the building, taking their case to the European Court.

But the towering obstacle is constituted by the fact that the club still need another £350 million to do the job, and where are they going to get it? Their bankers, the Bank of Scotland, cannot provide so huge a sum themselves; they have to appeal to numerous other banks who have been predictably reluctant to cough up.

'Arsenal seem to have dismissed the idea of playing at Wembley, but I don't see how else they can escape their plight'

So what next? Wembley? Arsenal seem to have entertained then dismissed the idea, but I don't see how else they can escape their plight. Ideally they could stay at Highbury, the ground they moved to from Plumstead across the river in 1913, when it was still St John's Theological College and they were still Woolwich Arsenal.

In 1932 the first of the two fine modern Art Deco stands was opened by the Prince of Wales; five years later the East Stand followed. Each is now under a preservation order and deservedly so.

There are, of course, obstacles to be negotiated were Arsenal to play at Wembley – which they did before vast crowds but with generally poor results in the Champions League in 1999. It is said that there are restrictions on the number of games to be played there when at last it is finished.

But now Tottenham, too, could be forced to move from White Hart Lane – the transport authorities have decided it would be too expensive to build a tube station nearby. Daniel Levy, main man in the company that owns Spurs, roundly declared no tube station, no more Tottenham in Tottenham; no incentive to enlarge the ground. Arsenal and Spurs sharing Wembley? Well, they did share White Hart Lane during the war.

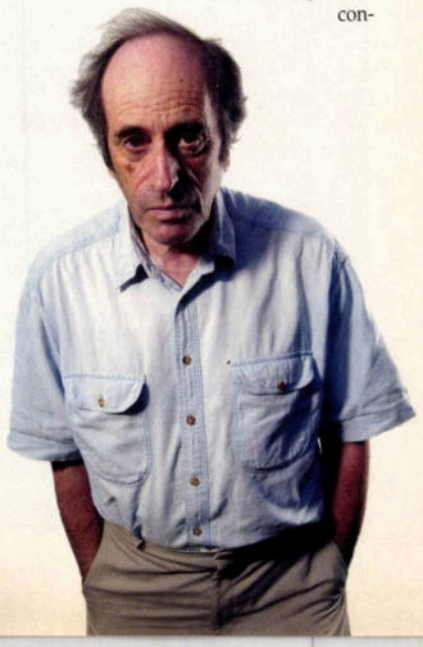
Taylor's moral failing

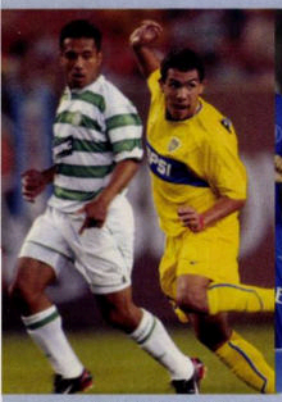
WHAT possessed Gordon Taylor, Grand Panjandrum of the Professional Footballers' Association, to oppose Manchester United's signing of 24-year-old USA goalkeeper Tim Howard? Legally, he was in the right, up to a point. Morally, he wasn't.

True, Howard had not fulfilled the Department of Employment's criterion that a player from outside the European Union must have appeared in at least 75 per cent of his country's internationals in the previous two years.

But this never made much sense to me, who served numerous times on the Department's appeals committee. It always seemed ironic and inconsistent that any old mediocrity from a European Union country could walk straight into English football, whereas a veto could automatically be imposed on a player from outside it, no matter how talented. This of course has led to a good deal of cheating, players from South America suddenly and surprisingly finding ancestors from EU countries.

Howard himself could have got in by the back door through some kind of a Hungarian con-





Celtic beat Boca Juniors in a pre-season friendly at Parkhead

26/07/03

Chelsea celebrate winning the Malaysia Cup four-team friendly tournament

27/07/03

Michael Reiziger clashes with David Trezeguet as Barcelona and Juventus draw 2-2 in Foxboro, USA

27/07/03

nection, but it should never have been potentially needed.
The reason he couldn't meet the criterion was simply because the USA already had two outstanding goalkeepers in Brad Friedel of Blackburn and Kasey Keller of Spurs. So now we have three fine American keepers in the Premiership.

Money can't buy everything

ARSENAL have been hamstrung in the transfer market – though their chairman, Peter Hill Wood, somewhat unconvincingly denies it – by the cost of Ashburton Grove. Will Chelsea, then, buy their way to success with the millions made available to them by their new Russian owner, Roman Abramovich? Ken Bates has rightly sounded a note of caution.

He is presumably aware that on the only occasion when Chelsea did win the League title, in 1955, it was with a team skilfully put together by manager Ted Drake, the former Arsenal and England centre-forward, with players from the Third Division – inside-forwards Johnny McNichol (Brighton) and Ray Stubbs (Southend), and young outside-left Frank Blunstone, soon to be capped by England, from Crewe.

The only real star of the side, Blunstone perhaps apart, was deep-lying centre-forward Roy Bentley, who led the England attack during the ill-fated 1950 World Cup in Brazil, when they were humiliated 1-0 by the USA.

On the face of it, £17million seems a colossal fee for gifted Irish attacker Damien Duff. But when you think that Real Madrid paid so much more to sign Luis Figo, Zinedine Zidane and Ronaldo, then perhaps it isn't.

On the other hand, it is hard to understand why Brighton had such trouble selling accomplished striker Bobby Zamora, and then for such a low fee – £1.5m with potentially more to come – to Tottenham.

The great replica shirt scandal

GOOD to see the Office of Fair Trading swoop on the firms allegedly making absurd profits out of football shirts.

A total of £18.6million in fines have been imposed, £8.7m of them on David Whelan's JJB Sports (though they are going to appeal, and my admiration remains for a man who so successfully rebuilt his life after breaking a leg playing for Blackburn against Wolves in the 1960 FA Cup Final). Manchester United may also appeal against a far smaller fine, but the process doesn't go remotely far enough. The true scandal of shirt sales goes far beyond the clubs and bodies, the Football Association among them, charged and fined by the usually flaccid OFT. Almost every price demanded by every club that sells replica shirts is a shocking rip-off. But the mindless habit of supporters attending matches wearing them is so deeply ingrained I cannot see a mutiny of mugs taking place.

Recently, at QPR, with the traditional hooped Celtic shirt in heavy evidence in the stands, Celtic played a friendly against Fulham wearing orange shirts. When I taxed their manager, Martin O'Neill, with this he pointed out that this was Celtic's second strip, and that they had still another in the pipeline! Yes, I replied, but Celtic come to London about once a year and when they do one wants to see them in their famous colours.

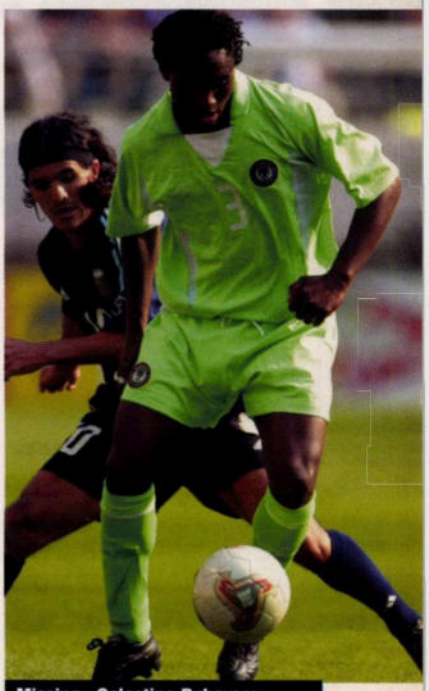
O'Neill cordially took the point. "You win," he said. "It doesn't happen very often," I replied, and indeed I didn't feel I'd won at all. For years now there has been a cynical and greedy tendency among English clubs to wear a second strip away from home so they can flog such shirts to their supporters.

It would be good to see the Premier League rule that where there is no clash, normal colours should be worn.

Read Brian Glanville's weekly column at www.worldsoccer.com

Notes & quotes

"It's a crime to play in these temperatures, just inhuman."
Paris Saint-Germain coach Vahid Halilhodzic after his side faced Lille during the heatwave.



Missing...Celestine Babayaro

"We have made overtures to Babayaro to rejoin his team-mates but he hasn't been co-operative and we don't know why."
Nigerian federation general secretary Taiwo Ogunjobi is perplexed about why Chelsea left-back Celestine Babayaro has not played for Nigeria since the last World Cup.

"All nonsense. I'll play again."
Turkish golden boy Ilhan Mansiz refutes rumours that he may have to end his career because of a knee injury.

"Alvaro Recoba is one of the few players around who can win a game on his own."
Internazionale president Massimo Moratti praises his club's Uruguayan midfielder. Unfortunately, coach Hector Cuper does not seem to agree.

Wayne Rooney will miss the start of the season after injuring his ankle

28/07/03

Liverpool and Galatasaray players square up to each other during a less-than-friendly encounter in Amsterdam

03/08/03

Juventus beat Milan to win the Italian Supercup – in New York

03/08/03

David Beckham scores his first goal for Real Madrid – against FC Tokyo

05/08/03

GLOBAL VIEW

Paul Gardner

Search for the perfect ref will never end

THIS SOUNDS LIKE a pretty horrible idea to me. The English Premier League has decided to make referees more accountable.

So now each referee performance will be subjected not only to a review by former referees, but by a new body made up of former players and coaches. All that, mind you, on top of the much more public and more sensational dissection of their performances that goes on in the media, particularly television.

Question: what is the point of all this overseeing? Is it an attempt to, somehow, ensure that referees make fewer mistakes, the time-honoured search for refereeing perfection? Or is it nothing more than a primitive desire to see that referees get punished for their mistakes?

I hope it's the former – but I fear it'll turn out to be the latter. Basically, we're to get former players and coaches telling referees how to do their job. Problem Number One with that is so glaringly obvious that I am quite dumbfounded at the gall of the Premiership people in coming up with the idea at all.

It's simply this: after decades of talking with coaches and players my own experience convinces me that both groups are usually ignorant – sometimes quite staggeringly so – of the rules of the game. The ignorance may be just that, or it may be something much more insidious: an unconscious distortion to suit their own requirements.

John Barnwell, the chief executive of the League Managers' Association, says that one of the things that the new vetting group will focus on will be a referee's "man-management skills".

Let's take a look at the extreme test of that: a multi-player melee on the field.

The blame game

Those situations are more than likely to be blamed on the referee. "The referee lost control," they say. By "they", I mean the players and the coaches – who are much more directly responsible for the mayhem. It is the players who "lose control", and it is their coaches – the men who have these players under their direct control day in and day out – who have failed to ensure that control is a priority.

Blaming the referee for player indiscipline is an easy get-out. How many coaches condemn their own players for acts of outright violence, or for overtly physical and provocative styles of play? Condemn them, did I say? Such acts are much more likely to be excused – that is, when they are not being openly praised.

A case can surely be made for a new panel – maybe even made up of ex-referees – to assess coaches' man-management skills on a game-by-game basis.

The view from the dugout is always distorted, and when the facts on the field are so obviously contrary to what the coach wants them to be, then we get a different type of view from the dugout: no view at all. We get "I couldn't really see from here – we have the worst seat in the house you know."

These guys have spent their careers judging referees by one over-riding criterion: if his decisions favour my team, he gets good marks. I am not exaggerating – you can hear them by the dozen, being interviewed after games every week. The country, the level, the language make no difference. The viewpoint is the same.

Nor is there anything wrong with that. It's difficult to see how it could be otherwise. But to imagine that those deeply ingrained and biased views of what makes a good referee belong on any sort of official review panel is deeply worrying.

There is already too much leniency on the part of referees towards the players, much too much readiness to excuse violent and reckless play. Example: the farce that gets enacted, week after week, in which a referee dishes out a yellow card, the same player then commits the same, or a worse, foul…and the referee goes over and talks to him – and doesn't send him off as the rules demand.

'Referees should give clinics to players and coaches – explaining the rules to them'

Referees have the rulebook as their infallible guideline – but they are not free to enforce it. To keep their jobs, they will referee in the way that the people who run the sport want them to. Should they start enforcing rules strictly – say, for argument's sake, the so-called ban on the tackle from behind – they will be roundly condemned as "too strict" or "a martinet". And we'll get all the "can't play like this", "ruining the game", "too many stoppages" comments.

It will be argued that a coach's biases – ignore our fouls but punish theirs – will neutralise each other, leading to a balanced view. Very

Celtic ease past Kaunas of Lithuania in the Champions League second qualifying round

06/08/03

Chelsea show off their latest signings, Joe Cole from West Ham and Juan Sebastian Veron from Manchester United

07/08/03

Manchester United players celebrate beating Arsenal on penalties to win the Community Shield in Cardiff

10/08/03

doubtful. How many coaches can you think of who would vote for a literal, rather than a lenient, application of the rules? Leniency always means favouring defensive play as it is defenders who commit most of the fouls. A coach-approved version of football means more defence, more fouls, fewer goals.

Consistency needed

The real answer here is for all these panels and committees to agree that the rules mean what they say and should be consistently and fairly enforced.

Instead of former players and coaches sitting in judgment on current referees, a much better idea would be to have former referees giving regular clinics to current players and coaches – explaining to them what the rules say. A good starting point might be to explain why the eternal plea "I got the ball, ref," does not excuse a violent foul.

The perfect referee does not exist, we all know that, so the best we can hope for is to get as close to perfection as we can. But it needs to be acknowledged that it is neither physically nor psychologically possible for a referee to concentrate on what is already a very difficult job and look over his shoulder at the same time.

Keir Radnedge

MEDIAWATCH

News and views from the world's press

JUVE HIT THE SPONSORS' BUTTONS

Sponsorship does pay off – and Juventus have the quantifying figures to prove it, according to *Soccer Investor*.

"The club's main sponsors [Lotto and Tamoil] earn additional revenues of around £90million from their partnership with the Italian champions," it reports.

"Research carried out by Sportsystem Europe also showed that media coverage of Juventus has increased by 29.9 per cent above the average on television and by 85.9 per cent in the print media – all leading to increased exposure for the sponsors."

Presumably it did help that Juventus won the Italian League title yet again and reached the Final of the UEFA Champions League. Logically, the more matches played, the more media coverage.

THE ART OF APOLOGY

ENGLAND: Good to see that some newspaper traditions never die, even after the advent of computerised publishing systems. One of those is *The Guardian* literal, as admitted by the paper's Corrections and Clarifications column thus: "In our interview with Sir Jack Hayward, the chairman of Wolverhampton Wanderers, we mistakenly attributed to him the following comment: 'Our team was the worst in the First Division and I'm sure it'll be the worst in the Premier League.' Sir Jack had just declined the offer of a hot drink. What he actually said was: 'Our tea was the worst in the First Division and I'm sure it'll be the worst in the Premier League.' "

PUTTING IT IN PERSPECTIVE

GERMANY: "Football's not the be-all and end-all for me. I was never driven by the ambition to be a professional footballer. There are much worse things in life than knee ligament injuries. It wouldn't be the end of the world if I couldn't play again."

– *Werder Bremen's Manuel Friedrich in* Kicker *as he struggles to regain fitness.*

BIG MOUTH STRIKES AGAIN

SPAIN: "During the club's presidential elections it appeared that we were going to sign more players than Real Madrid but the elections have come and gone and I don't see anyone yet."

– *Valencia coach Rafa Benitez in* Don Balon, *demonstrating why the board have told him to keep quiet.*

SOUNDING A WARNING

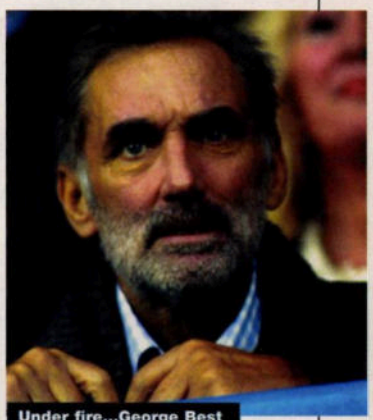
PAKISTAN: "The television advertising outlook for the short-term is bleak. There are highs and lows and it will rise again. But in the meantime we [FIFA] are cutting costs and becoming leaner and meaner. We want to be certain that we are financially strong in the future."

– *FIFA vice-president Jack Warner in* International News of Pakistan, *suggesting that the world governing body may not be quite as far out of the financial wood as some people think.*

CHALLENGING BEST

ENGLAND: "George Best is still widely seen as a sparkling Jack the Lad, an Irish charmer with an endearing fondness for the bottle and blondes. His fans delight in the way he appears to have turned his chronic drink problem into a source of humour…yet there is nothing remotely funny, endearing or praiseworthy about George Best. His entire adult life has been based on disloyalty and irresponsibility, whether as a husband or a footballer…Far from being a lovable rogue beset by difficulties, Best is a self-pitying bore incapable of recognising – let alone apologising for – his appalling behaviour."

– *Leo McKinstry in the* Daily Mail, *going where many other journalists dare not.*



Under fire...George Best

Becks appeal

SID LOWE in Madrid

The hard work pays off for Beckham on Real Madrid's Far East tour

THE SPANISH KNEW he had the looks, the hair and 'la spice pija' for a wife, but David Beckham the footballer has pleasantly surprised them on Real Madrid's pre-season tour of the Far East.

Before Beckham signed, commentators here saw him as a limited player; one who took a lethal free-kick and delivered pinpoint crosses but little else. They certainly didn't think he'd put in the hard work or boss the midfield.

The tour has changed that. After Madrid's second game, against FC Tokyo, the Spanish media was positively drooling. Beckham's goal saw him proclaimed the "free-kick king", capable, as Juanjo Diaz from sports daily *Marca* oddly put it, of producing "perfect bananas, or 'sausages' as they call them in England".

But it wasn't Beckham's speciality that most impressed or, less still, surprised. What did was his workrate and seriousness,

Charm offensive...Madrid players make friends in China

'We were expecting a clothes horse, a pretty boy…but the Englishman is good'

something immediately apparent during his debut against China's Dragon Team.

El Pais remarked upon Beckham's "sense of responsibility", adding, "he never showed off", while *AS* rated him "the most disciplined. He may not be the perfect lover, but he's an ideal husband. He pushes the Hoover round, cooks romantic dinners and never falls asleep on you."

The following match, in Tokyo, where the England captain played centrally, reinforced the impression – and added that of Beckham the midfield general. One front page read "Marshal Beckham"; another "Becks takes control".

It is a far cry from last season when, prior to facing Manchester United, centre-back Ivan Helguera spoke for many when telling me: "I see Beckham very, very much as a winger. If he played centrally here he'd lose his greatest attribute, which is his fantastic crossing. And maybe his long passing, because we play shorter."

Asked to pick a danger man, Madrid's players then plumped for Ryan Giggs; one even privately confided that he didn't rate Beckham. Much of the press agreed: Beckham was 'mucho marketing', inflated by his image, not one to sweat for his team. No matter how many times they were told – and it was many, many times – of Beckham's athleticism, workrate and dedication, they never took it in.

Beckham the construction worker

Now they have found out for themselves. It certainly wasn't what they expected, although *AS's* Juanma Trueba claimed to have had an inkling: "Louts and filthy pigs turn into Renaissance princes with a ball at their feet, so we shouldn't be surprised when a delicate sex symbol becomes a construction worker. We were expecting a clothes horse avoiding getting kicked, a pretty boy worried about his ponytail. But Beckham is tireless, [and capable of] taking control.

"The Englishman is good. Honestly."

So too are Madrid. If, that is, you believe the reaction from the Madridista sections of the press, like columnist Tomas Roncero, who gloatingly proclaimed: "There isn't a team in the whole of Asia who can hold a candle to Real Madrid."

Which arguably isn't saying much. Not everyone was impressed by four victories in what one reporter described as "four training sessions…sorry, matches" against second-rate sides. Nor did the huge viewing figures count for much. As one Catalan columnist said: "At two in the afternoon everyone's at home or in a bar, escaping the asphyxiating heat, so of course they tuned in. There was no competition – even *The Simpsons* wasn't on. These matches against pseudo-teams are getting tiresome. True fans don't want to see sides that wouldn't even get into the Third Division."

Nor is it just the quality of the opponents. Questions have also been raised about the suitability of the tour's 30,000km of travelling across time-zones, jet-lag, training and playing in 90 per cent humidity and soaring temperatures, and the suffocating pressure of being forever under siege from fans, sponsors and the media – a siege the security forces and police seemed ill-equipped to control. It's a world away from the cool tranquillity of Madrid's traditional pre-season base of Nyon in Switzerland.

The man responsible is president Florentino Perez. The players even dubbed the tour the "Show de Flo" after a TV programme and took to humming the theme tune en route to the countless official functions. It was taken in good humour, but the concern was genuine. Michel Salgado admitted the squad was tired and just wanted to get home, while Luis Figo hoped "this doesn't cost us". Another player confided: "Physically, this is a mystery; it could lead anywhere."

Others agreed. Ex-Madrid winger Michel complained of "too little time to train, too many commercial commitments, too much travelling, and hassle everywhere", while *Marca's* resident sports doctor judged it "a risky gamble as far as the players' preparation is concerned".

Madrid's promised land

But then the tour's main objective wasn't to prepare for the season ahead so much as to open up Madrid's promised land – the Far East. As one director excitedly revealed last season: "When pay-per-view hits Japan we could make in a day what Spain yields in a year." Capitalising on and expanding Madrid's Beckham-bolstered "universality" was the key. Perez called it "evangelisation".

Even in such terms, though, the tour wasn't the rip-roaring, image-enhancing success the club hoped for, thanks to a series of conflicts and gaffes, including the postponement of a scheduled match in Malaysia amid accusations of Madrid being "leeches", staying for just 20 minutes of a welcome banquet, and failing to show "sufficient respect" during a ceremony in Kunming, where the squad were named honorary citizens.

Things got even worse when the *Galacticos* failed to show for a public training session in Hong Kong, attended by 20,000. The excuse was fatigue but that night Beckham, Ronaldo and company were photographed out on the town.

"Too tired to train; fine to go out!" screamed the *South China Post*, alongside photos of the players with attractive female 'fans', who, it emerged, had been paid off by the revenge-seeking paper.

Stung by the reports and ever aware of image, Perez arranged a press conference to apologise. "In our programme there wasn't a training session lined up in the stadium," he insisted, "but we're sorry for any misunderstanding. We're here to defend the values of *Madridismo* and humility is deeply rooted in that. Nothing, therefore, has produced more pain for us than being called arrogant."

Nothing, perhaps, except witnessing thousands and thousands of counterfeit Madrid shirts selling for little over £1. Maybe the Asian market won't be Madrid's golden goose after all.

Thumbs up...but Catania owner Luciano Gaucci and the fans' hopes of having relegation overturned were finally dashed

Courting controversy

The close season has been dominated by the row over Catania's relegation

PADDY AGNEW in Rome

ITALIAN FOOTBALL, wherefore art thou? We left you on a triumphant all-Italian Champions League night at Old Trafford and we find you again amid scenes of farce, with the fixture list for the new season being released almost clandestinely in order to avoid fan protests.

After a spring when much had gone well for Italy, both at club and international level, it was disappointing to find the off-season dominated by the 110-day shenanigans centered around relegated Serie B club Catania. The farce provided plenty of entertainment because, depending on what day of the week you bought your newspaper, the Sicilian club had been re-instated in Serie B or re-relegated to Serie C1 in the wake of a ridiculous series of contradictory hearings carried out both by Football Federation judicial bodies and by the state magistrature.

The Catania tale has been recounted in this column before, but for the benefit of new readers it began back on April 12 with a 1-1 draw at home to Siena. Catania subsequently appealed to the federation's disciplinary court that the game was "irregular" because Siena had fielded defender Davide Martinelli.

Martinelli had missed Siena's previous Serie B game against Napoli because of suspension but, on the same day, had turned out for the youth team against Ternana. According to Catania, Martinelli broke federation rules by playing on a day when he was meant to be serving his ban.

When two out of three federation tribunals subsequently confirmed the result, Catania moved the whole business on to an entirely different plain by taking the matter to the state judiciary, in the shape of a Regional Appeals Court (TAR). Days before the Serie B season finished (with Catania relegated), the court threw a major spanner into the works by overruling the federation, declaring the Siena result invalid and awarding a 2-0 'win' to Catania.

Two vital points

The obvious point about that ruling was that the extra two points meant the difference between staying up and relegation for Catania, who had finished fourth from bottom on 44 points, one point behind both Napoli and Venezia, the first two teams to miss the drop. The Catania TAR court insisted that Catania be readmitted to Serie B.

We were now in the ridiculous situation whereby the final Serie B classification was being decided not by results on the pitch but by a judge in a regional Appeals Court. Faced with nothing less than an undesired 'invasion of the pitch' and with their authority and autonomy seriously undermined, the federation, the Football League and CONI, the overall regulatory body for Italian sport, finally buried a variety of hatchets to make common cause in late July.

With the day looming for the official launch of the fixture list for the new season and nobody sure just which clubs were in Serie B, the federation was saved by the Fifth Cavalry, which came riding over the hill in a pincer movement.

Firstly, yet another state court (this time in the Sicilian capital, Palermo) ruled in favour of the federation and against Catania.

Secondly, the Italian government helped out by anticipating the contents of a government decree due to be voted on in parliament in October. In essence, the new legislation will legally bind members of sports federations into accepting a new state sports tribunal, designed along the lines of the IOC's Lausanne Court of Appeal, as the definitive and final court of arbitration.

Buoyed by this show of support, the federation finally bit the bullet and published the new fixtures, with Catania firmly in Serie C1, much to the dismay of some 300 fans who had come to Rome to protest.

The above is but a potted history of the Catania affair. Suffice to say that at one point the three other relegated sides in Serie B – Genoa, Cosenza and Salernitana – also took cases to regional courts, claiming their right to stay up.

The farce perhaps touched its apex on July 29 when the TAR court of Salernitana ruled that Salernitana be re-admitted to Serie B. This notwithstanding the fact that the club had finished plumb last in Serie B, 22 points behind Napoli and Venezia.

When it is pointed out that Catania is owned and run by the Luciano Gaucci family of Perugia fame, people may be tempted to smile and nod sagely. After all, is this not the same Gaucci who just a year ago 'sacked' his South Korean star Ahn Jung-hwan, 'guilty' of scoring a World Cup 'golden goal' against Italy?

Is this not the man who this summer controversially signed Libyan international Al-Saadi Ghaddafi, son of Libyan leader Muammar Ghaddafi, for Perugia?

And is this not the man who a few seasons ago appointed professional soccer's first woman coach when putting Carolina Morace in charge of Serie C1 side Viterbese, only to sack her three matches into the season?

It is tempting to dismiss the whole Catania business as just another piece of Gaucci eccentricity. Tempting but wrong. While Gaucci was certainly not behind the door when it came to seizing the opportunity offered by the Martinelli affair, the manner in which the matter was handled (and indeed the apparent lack of clarity of the federation rule book) all reflected badly on both the federation and its embattled president, Franco Carraro.

● Perugia president Gaucci, a year on from his 'sacking' of Korean hero Ahn, has ruffled more feathers with his call for his club to become the first in the world to field a female player in the first team.

"Within six months we'll have a woman playing in Perugia's red strip," Gaucci declared.

"I'd be astonished if anyone kicked up a fuss. It's not forbidden in the rules, which only mention men playing in women's teams."

Forced out...Ahn Jung-hwan

The last hurrah?

It is a pity that the Catania affair has dominated the summer headlines. The new season prompts other more intriguing considerations. Can Italy come from behind (as coach Giovanni Trapattoni believes) and leapfrog Wales to win their qualifying group for next summer's European Championship finals? Will the Italian renaissance in Europe continue apace or was that Juventus-Milan Champions League Final just the last hurrah from a declining giant?

How good are talented youngsters such as Fabrizio Miccoli (Juventus), Antonio Di Natale (Empoli), Giuseppe Sculli (Chievo), Gaetano D'Agostino (Roma) and Marco Borriello (Milan)? Can grand old men such as Paolo Maldini (Milan) and the 'Little Prince' Roberto Baggio (Brescia) crank themselves up again for one glorious final act in their illustrious careers?

We will have to wait until next May before all the answers are known.

'The federation finally bit the bullet and the new fixtures placed Catania firmly in Serie C1'

The great survivor

Behind the goofy smile and silly voice, Chelsea manager Claudio Ranieri is a tough customer

GABRIELE MARCOTTI in London

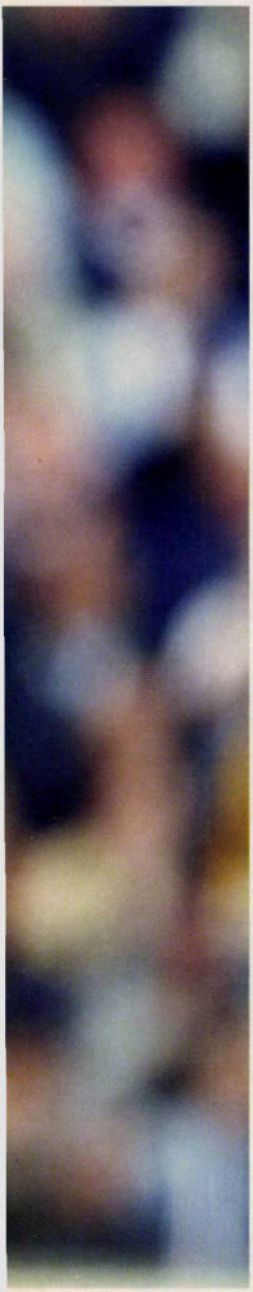
NEW YORK MOBSTER John Gotti was called the 'Teflon Don' because, no matter what the cops and district attorneys threw at him, nothing seemed to stick. He survived countless investigations and escaped prosecution year after year.

Now Chelsea coach Claudio Ranieri is not a mafia boss, but the Teflon moniker certainly applies. No matter how much he is criticised – "Tinkerbell" and "Crazy Claudio" are two headlines that spring to mind – nothing seems to affect him. Neither vicious column inches, nor intrusive megalomaniac chairmen, nor prima-donna superstars can make him stray from his chosen path.

"I came up from the lowest rung, both as a player and as a manager," he says. "And I learned to do my job my own way. Without arrogance, because there is always something to learn. But also without fear, conscious that, above all, I need to answer

Great expectations...Ranieri is under even more pressure to deliver after Roman Abramovich's Stamford Bridge revolution

'I have learned to do the job without fear because I need to answer to myself'



to myself. I need to sleep with my conscience at night, nobody else does. And it worked. Little by little, I kept climbing."

As a player he was an undersized central defender of little ability who nevertheless racked up some 300 appearances in Serie A and B, clawing out a living with a combination of brains, grit and ruthlessness.

As a coach, he survived and thrived under a veritable psychiatric wing of colourful and unpredictable chairmen, from Napoli's Corrado Ferlaino to Valencia's Paco Roig and from Fiorentina's Vittorio Cecchi Gori to grand-daddy of them all, Jesus Gil. Ferlaino is the only one to have sacked him.

Strip away the goofy smile and the fact that when he speaks English he sounds like Latka Gravas, the Andy Kaufman character in the 1970s sitcom *Taxi*. Underneath is a genuinely tough and highly adaptable man undeterred by adversity and criticism.

When he was at Valencia, he survived the ire of fans and outright threats from club directors after dropping crowd favourites Romario and Ariel Ortega. At Napoli, he dared the club to sack him after defending players who had been harshly criticised by the chairman.

Abramovich bombshell

At Chelsea he was slowly building a competitive side on a shoestring budget, bringing through youngsters such as John Terry, Robert Huth and Carlton Cole, when the bombshell dropped and Roman Abramovich crashed on to the scene.

The Russian billionaire's arrival was like a sonic boom. Instantly, the club's debt was wiped out, some £60 million of new players were brought in and, all of a sudden, the weight of expectation over his head looked like a sword of Damocles.

Speculation was rife that Abramovich wanted a fashionable, big-name manager to go with his expensive signings. His ill-advised semi-public meeting with England coach Sven Goran Eriksson did nothing to quell the fears. Abramovich wanted Versace; Ranieri was, at best, Gap: solid, unspectacular and terribly pedestrian. There were even suggestions Eriksson was telling Abramovich who to buy, with the understanding that, as soon as Ranieri was gone, the Swede would be taking over.

Typically, Ranieri took it in his stride. When asked about whether Chelsea's new signings were his own choices or whether he had simply been assigned players picked by someone else, he replied: "What do you think? Maybe Eriksson chose them..."

His self-deprecation won him a few chuckles that day, but he knows well that, given the resources Abramovich has assembled for him (or – depending who you believe – for Eriksson), he has to start winning matches from day one. Otherwise, he'll be spending the spring looking for a new job.

The impression is that the absolute minimum achievement for him to stay on is probably runners-up spot in the Premiership and a quarter-final showing in the Champions League.

Solid...Leeds keeper Paul Robinson

● Many are predicting Leeds won't be able to cope with the repercussions of the Peter Ridsdale era and will go down. But the club could take inspiration from Lazio, who were in similar financial straits last season. Coach Roberto Mancini used the hardship to instil great team spirit, and his side finished fourth in Serie A. Leeds manager Peter Reid is no Mancini, but his team's spine – Paul Robinson, Danny Mills, Dominic Matteo, Eirik Bakke and Alan Smith – is as solid as they come. It's far too early to write them off.

Tough choices

The sheer scope and size of his squad will test his man-management skills to the utmost. Ranieri said he would like two alternatives at each position and he certainly got his wish. Yet it could well be a blessing in disguise. Successful clubs do tend to have larger squads, but there usually is a clearly-defined hierarchy.

But, for all the quality, there are no Zidanes or Vieris in this team. As it stands, only defender William Gallas and goalkeeper Carlo Cudicini appear certain to start week in, week out. Each game will bring tough choices: Juan Sebastian Veron or Frank Lampard? Joe Cole or Damien Duff? Geremi or Jesper Gronkjaer?

Does he rotate his squad, carefully dishing out minutes of playing time to keep everyone happy? Or does he pick his best 11 and focus on achieving the kind of cohesion necessary to compete with the big boys, both domestically and in Europe?

When asked these questions, Ranieri usually just shrugs and smiles. He knows that there are no correct answers. And he knows that there is nothing that he can say now which will make his job easier or more secure.

He will be judged on results, as always. But given his penchant for surviving, don't bet against him hanging on to his job.

Gabriele Marcotti is the London correspondent of Corriere dello Sport

Makaay raises the

The Dutchman joins Bayern after 'poker-match' negotiations with Deportivo

NICK BIDWELL
in Dortmund

Healthy competition...Bayern coach Hitzfeld (left) believes Makaay's arrival will spark a desired battle for front-line starting berths

stakes

GERMAN HEADLINE WRITERS quite aptly described the negotiations that led Dutch striker Roy Makaay to leave Deportivo La Coruna for Bayern Munich as a "marathon poker session".

For over two months, the two clubs and Makaay's agent, Rob Jansen, were engaged in a high-stakes game of nerve, bluff and concealed intentions, with the deal often in danger of collapsing. At times, Bayern and Deportivo gave the impression of being simply too far apart in their respective valuations – the German champions rated Makaay at £11.5million, Deportivo demanded £16m-plus. At other times, Depor president Augusto Cesar Lendoiro seemed to be waiting for other interested parties to appear on the scene to up the ante.

But with Makaay making it clear it was Bayern or nothing, an agreement was eventually reached. In exchange for Makaay's signature on a four-year contract, Bayern would pay a club record £13.6m.

"I came to Bayern because I want to play at the highest possible level and to win the Champions League," said Makaay, whose mobility, pace and brilliant two-footed finishing brought him four goals for Depor against the Bavarians in the Champions League last term. "Bayern were after me for a long time and never lost interest. That shows the confidence they have in me.

"I know what awaits at Bayern. It's well known that this is a club that always has to win. I'm hoping to settle in as quickly as I can and to find the same sort of goalscoring form I had for Depor last season." (His 29 goals for Deportivo made him the ESM Golden Shoe winner for 2002-03.)

No room for Elber?

The Bayern management have denied Makaay's arrival means they are now open to offers for their other strikers ("with Roy on the books, we have created the competition for places that a top team needs," said coach Ottmar Hitzfeld). However, rumours persist that Bayern might be tempted to cash in on the sale of Brazilian front-man Giovane Elber before his contract runs out in summer 2004.

Elber is the original enigma. He is immensely popular at the Olympiastadion and was the joint-top scorer in the Bundesliga last term with 21 goals. Yet he has never been the most natural of team players and does not help his cause with his sheer inconsistency. However, Elber was typically feisty on hearing that Makaay was due any day, saying: "Every year new players sign for Bayern and, in the end, it's always Giovane who plays. It will be the same this time."

'I know what awaits at Bayern. This is a club that has to win' *Roy Makaay*

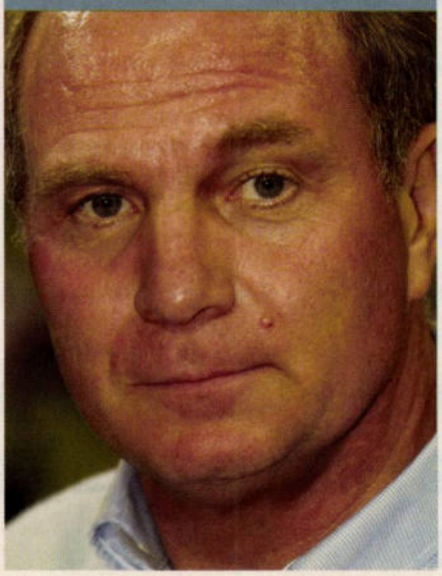
Much less predictable than Bayern finally getting their hands on Makaay was the departure of Borussia Dortmund keeper Jens Lehmann to Arsenal. Lehmann had been looking forward to reclaiming his place in the Dortmund goal after being sidelined in the latter part of last term with a thigh injury. But the offer from Arsenal was too tempting for both Lehmann and the Dortmund management. The keeper had an exciting new challenge in London, and the club received £1.5m for a player who would have walked away on a Bosman free at the end of the season.

● Bayern Munich's sharp-tongued general manager Uli Hoeness is not the most popular man in Germany. But he won a few fans for the part he and Bayern played in raising cash to safeguard the future of Third Division St Pauli.

With the Hamburg club facing demotion to the Fourth Division if they could not find the £1.5million needed to retain their League licence, Hoeness took the Bayern first team to St Pauli for a money-spinning friendly.

Normally Hoeness is roundly booed at away grounds. But this time, sporting a special 'Save St Pauli' T-shirt, he was given a hero's welcome.

Surprise saviour...Uli Hoeness



Cash apart, Dortmund should have mixed feelings about the Lehmann move. While an extremely talented and authoritative keeper, his outspoken views can grate and his hair-trigger temperament caused him to be sent off twice last term.

Lehmann's relationship with his Dortmund deputy Roman Weidenfeller was also reported to be icy in the extreme, though it has to be said that the latter played his part in souring the atmosphere. Formerly with Kaiserslautern, Weidenfeller has the same cockiness as ex-Germany keeper Toni Schumacher and was never going to endear himself to Lehmann with his repeated claims last season that he should be number one.

The problem for Weidenfeller is that he does not always live up to his own self-publicity, recently making errors in Dortmund's 4-2 League Cup Final loss to Hamburg and in the 2-2 draw at Schalke on the opening day of the season.

"The criticism I've had has not affected my composure," insisted Weidenfeller. "I won't start sweating in future games. Young keepers have to be given a little time to settle in."

Another professional with plenty to say for himself is Werder Bremen's controversial Brazilian marksman Ailton. Fined once again for awarding himself a few extra days of holiday, the barrel-chested striker further angered his employers with a string of semi-detached performances in pre-season. There were even reports of Werder opening talks with Ailton admirers at Olympiakos or Fenerbahce.

But if Werder were willing to offload a player whose disdain for discipline has given them so many headaches, they would not have been so keen after Ailton scored three goals in the first two fixtures of the new League campaign.

"I don't care if I play well or badly in friendlies," said Ailton, who scored 16 League goals last season. "These games don't interest me. When the serious stuff begins, I'm there. I feel my attitude has been vindicated. No one at Werder has the right to criticise me. I've scored too many goals for that."

Will Ailton ever mend his ways? Werder captain Frank Baumann thinks not, saying: "We'll never change Ailton. The fines get bigger and they just don't bother him. He's always late for pre-season training and then goes out and scores goals in the Bundesliga. What can you say?"

Cashing in...Ronaldinho has chosen the attractions of Barça rather than Champions League football with Man Utd

The great depression

ERIK BIELDERMAN in Marseille

The French transfer market has reached its lowest point

LAST YEAR THE average turnover per club in the French Premier League was £25.7million. This season it is going to be £23.5m, no better than four years ago.

The recession is hitting hard. French football, like its bigger brothers elsewhere in Europe, is suffering. Deflation is part of the game now and the transfer market has reached its lowest point.

The situation is further complicated because there is a League committee that can relegate clubs if their books do not balance.

In the current climate, players under contract on big wages are reluctant to move to a new club where they will not be offered such high salaries. Didier Deschamps, coach of last season's runners-up Monaco, explains: "I have told some of the players they do not figure in my plans and they are free to accept offers. But they don't want to move. They prefer to stay with their golden contracts without playing, instead of going elsewhere to do their job for less money.

"I could never have done that. I would have accepted being paid 10 times less just to play football. But times have changed and economic interests are so high now and contracts so important. To me, the guilty parties are not the players but the chairmen. They accepted paying crazy prices for average players. They are now in trouble because of the recession and they can't sell players who, because of their agents, just want the money."

This situation, and the fact that 80 per cent of French internationals are already playing abroad (in England, Germany, Spain and Italy), made for a boring close-season transfer market.

Who was there to buy from France? The only star was Ronaldinho at Paris Saint-Germain. After weeks of negotiations between PSG, the player, his brother Roberto Assis and the 'big three' (Real Madrid, Manchester United and Barcelona), 'Ronnie' ended up in Catalonia for £20m, despite United being favourites to sign him. It was a big surprise, but PSG pretended to be disappointed by the quality of the talks and United's final offer.

Yet it seems obvious Ronaldinho has chosen the quality of life of Barcelona ahead of the sporting aspect of playing for one of the world's two greatest clubs. He will not play in the Champions League with Barça this season, but is sure to find the kind of atmosphere and climate he enjoys.

Frank Leboeuf left Marseille for Qatar for one last big contract before retiring. Bordeaux didn't keep Brazilian Savio because of his high wages. So now the former Real Madrid player is at Zaragoza in Spain. Sonny Anderson, Lyon's Brazilian striker, also found himself in Spain, at Villarreal on a free transfer. Rafael Marquez, Monaco's Mexican defender, is now at Barcelona. And that's about it, although the market stays open until August 31.

'The chairmen are the guilty parties. They accepted paying crazy prices for average players'

Monaco coach Didier Deschamps

Marseille favourites

In the buyers' market, Marseille have been the most active, acquiring Czech midfielder Stepan Vachousek from Slavia Prague, Egyptian forward Ahmed Hossam (Ajax), defender Philippe Christanval (Barcelona), Ivorian striker Didier Drogba (Guingamp) and Senegalese defensive midfielder Sylvain N'Diaye (Lille).

The signings make Marseille title favourites this season. Champions Lyon are still up there, but they are struggling to find a striker and may regret the departure of Anderson.

They have done well on the defensive side, buying Rennes right-back Anthony Reveillere, who was on loan to Valencia last season, and the promising Ghanaian Michael Essien (Bastia). But they need more if they want to keep their title.

Monaco, after a long period of financial trauma, are now secure and ready for another tilt at the Champions League. Argentinian playmaker Marcelo Gallardo may soon move to Marseille, but Deschamps is not counting on him as a key man, anyway.

Vahid Halilhodzic, the tough Bosnian manager (ex-Lille and Rennes), has replaced Luis Fernandez at PSG. He signed Pauleta, the Portuguese striker twice voted Player of the Season in France and top scorer two seasons ago, from Bordeaux. But PSG have a long way to go to restore their reputation.

Deep Freeze Cold Gel contains Menthol.

Always read the label.

FREEZE PAIN ON THE SPOT

Physios advise treating injuries with ice packs, but these can be a pain. So here's a very effective alternative cooling therapy system – Deep Freeze Spray freezes pain instantly and, for later, long lasting Deep Freeze Cold Gel chills deep down to muscles, tendons and joints. So make the Deep Freeze System part of your sports kit – it's a smart way to treat injuries.

Mentholatum
DEEP FREEZE

YOUR PAIN CHILLER

The clampdown

The authorities are finally cracking down on violent play

BRIAN HOMEWOOD in Rio de Janeiro

EIGHTEEN YEARS AGO, Zico, now coach of the Japanese national team, was victim to what has to go down as one of the most horrific tackles committed on a football pitch.

Flamengo were playing Bangu at the Maracana, and Zico was in his prime until rival Marcio Rossini threw his full weight straight at his right knee in a hideous flying, lunging tackle.

Zico was sidelined for a year and, although he hobbled through the 1986 World Cup, was never the same player again. Marcio Rossini was merely shown the yellow card. The incident heralded a new era. The *brucutus*, literally bully-boys, were taking over.

Since then, Brazilian football has offered an often perverse spectacle. Matches of 60 fouls have become commonplace. Flying, two-footed tackles – often from behind – have come to be regarded as normal, while dummying, dribbling and trickery such as flicking the ball over an opponent's head have been increasingly seen as 'provocation' and an insult to the victim's manhood. Last year,

Tackling the problem...horrendous lunges from behind, commonplace in the Brazilian game, are at last earning bans for their perpetrators

begins

'The tribunal is belatedly using video evidence of offences missed by referees'

Coritiba striker Jaba famously had a free-kick awarded against him for passing his foot over the ball in front of a defender.

During a Brazilian championship semi-final first leg, Santos winger Robinho was warned by Gremio goalkeeper Danrlei that he could end up with a broken leg if he continued his trickery. In the second leg, Robinho was substituted to save him from injury after being kicked black and blue – ironically, the colour of the Gremio shirt – by the opposition.

The list of culprits also includes referees who turn a blind eye, coaches who order their team to foul the opposition, and disciplinary tribunals who let offenders off the hook.

Now, it seems, the bullyboys' days could be numbered.

In the same year that Brazilian football took a huge step forward by introducing the conventional league format for its national championship, the disciplinary tribunal has promised to clamp down on offenders.

Belatedly, the tribunal has begun using video evidence to punish offences 'missed' by referees. By July, seven players had been suspended in this manner. Gremio midfielder Gaviao was given 90 days for pushing the referee after being sent off against Figueirense, and team-mate Christian got 60 days for insulting the same official in the same game.

Luxemburgo banned

Amaral, another Gremio player, was banned for two games for treading on an opponent's testicles, and Cruzeiro coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo was banned for 30 days for rushing on to the pitch to yell at a referee and blame him for getting two of his players suspended.

"The Brazilian public is fed up with so much disrespect," said Luiz Zveiter, president of the disciplinary commission. "Nobody can stand any more scenes of violence involving players."

The final straw came after the police became involved in two games in less than one week. America-Belo Horizonte goalkeeper Fabiano was arrested on the pitch during a game at Avai and taken in for questioning after lashing out at the referee, who had booked him. Fabiano was later banned for 180 days for the incident, which had at least been mentioned in the referee's report.

A week later, players from Santos and Corinthians brawled on the field after their 1-1 draw. The incident ended with Santos midfielder Fabiano going to the nearest police station to press charges against Corinthians goalkeeper Doni, who had kicked him in the back with a flying lunge.

'A bit of pushing and shoving'

Although the latter incident was seen by millions of TV viewers, referee Salvio Spindola did not send anybody off and described the incident in his report as "a bit of pushing and shoving".

Zveiter was having none of it and said referees were also under observation. "We've had enough of omissive referees," he said.

Once again, the tribunal was as good as its word.

Spindola, present at the hearing, was found guilty of 'omission' and banned for 30 days. Corinthians defender Fabio Luciano, who was playing his last game before a move to Turkey's Fenerbahce, was banned for 60 days, Doni for 40, Santos pair Fabio Costa and Fabiano for four matches apiece and Corinthians defender Cesar for three matches.

By the time the championship reached its halfway mark, Cruzeiro were still top with a three-point advantage over Santos, the latter having managed to keep their momentum despite having four players included in Brazil's squad for the Gold Cup. Sao Paulo were third, a further two points behind, followed by Coritiba and Atletico Mineiro.

Cruzeiro appeared unaffected by the shock announcement that top scorer Deivid was being sold to Bordeaux for over £3 million after only six months at the club. In their first game without him, they thrashed Parana 5-1.

Former Libertadores champions Gremio went plunging towards the relegation zone after failing to win in seven outings or even score in four of them. Gremio, who have already dispensed with coaches Tite and Dario Pereyra and seen half their team depart midway through the tournament, finally ended their run with a shock 2-0 win over Santos.

Off you go...a Flamengo player is given the red card

- Attendances are down in the national championship as the big teams slump. By the 18th round, gates had plunged 46 per cent from last season, with average attendances dropping to 7,463 from the previous 13,742.
- Goalkeeper Eduardo scored with a header from a corner in the final minute to give Atletico Mineiro a 2-1 victory over Juventude.
- Coritiba defender Ceara scored the championship's fastest goal just 12 seconds into the game won 3-2 by his team against Criciuma.

Carry on selling

ERIC WEIL
in Buenos Aires

The great player exodus continues, despite recession in Europe

THE 2003-04 SEASON has kicked off, and again the League has seen its best players depart. River Plate, winners of last term's closing championship, sold playmaker Andres D'Alessandro to Wolfsburg and saw defender Martin Demichelis leave for Bayern Munich. Defender Gabriel Milito, who practically single-handedly won last season's opening title for Independiente, went to Zaragoza after the mysterious collapse of his transfer to Real Madrid (see Talent Scout, page 117).

Among other big departures, the opening and closing top scorers – Independiente's Andres Silvera and Rosario Central's Luciano Figueroa – took their goals to Tigres of Mexico and Birmingham in England respectively. Meanwhile, Boca Juniors striker Marcelo Delgado – a star of their Libertadores Cup Final win against Santos of Brazil – has also gone to Mexico, with Cruz Azul.

Although Carlos Tevez, reckoned to be last season's top player, along with D'Alessandro, was still at Boca at press time, Bayern Munich said they had the 19-year-old's transfer all wrapped up for £7million.

All these departures have come despite other countries' poor financial situation. But the truth is that Argentinian players are cheap, mainly because their clubs are desperate for money. Domestic football's plight has mirrored the general economic crisis in the country, where the peso suffered a devaluation two years ago.

On top of the transfers abroad, many players have moved within Argentina. At the last count, the 20 First Division clubs had signed 144 players and released 196 during the close season, which is less than a month long. The main reason for this unusually large turnover is that most players these days are signed on loan for the season and move on once it is over.

Not for the first time, the biggest changes took place at Independiente, with 13 players moving out and 14 coming in. Most of their leading players have left (Milito, Silvera, Juan Serizuela, Federico Insua), and those signed are not of the same quality.

The position is similar to other clubs. River Plate could not afford to renew striker Esteban Fuertes' loan, lost D'Alessandro and Demichelis, and released their two experienced goalkeepers – Angel Comizzo and Jose Buljubasich – who had both been blamed for errors. The latter decision left them with Franco Costanzo and German Lux – good keepers, but inexperienced. Meanwhile, they brought back two veteran former internationals who have seen better days: Chilean striker Marcelo Salas and Argentinian defender Nelson Vivas.

River's chief rivals, Boca Juniors, will miss defender Hugo Ibarra, now at Monaco, midfielder Ezequiel Gonzalez (Rosario Central) and Delgado. They were holding out hope of re-acquiring midfielder Juan Riquelme and striker Martin Palermo, at least on loan, as neither seems to feature in the plans of their respective Spanish clubs.

Argentina's best imports this season are Colombians, with internationals Geovanny Hernandez, Luis Perea, Julian Vasquez, Kilian Virviescas and Fabian Vargas all coming to the country. Former Boca stalwarts Jorge Bermudez and Mauricio Serna also return.

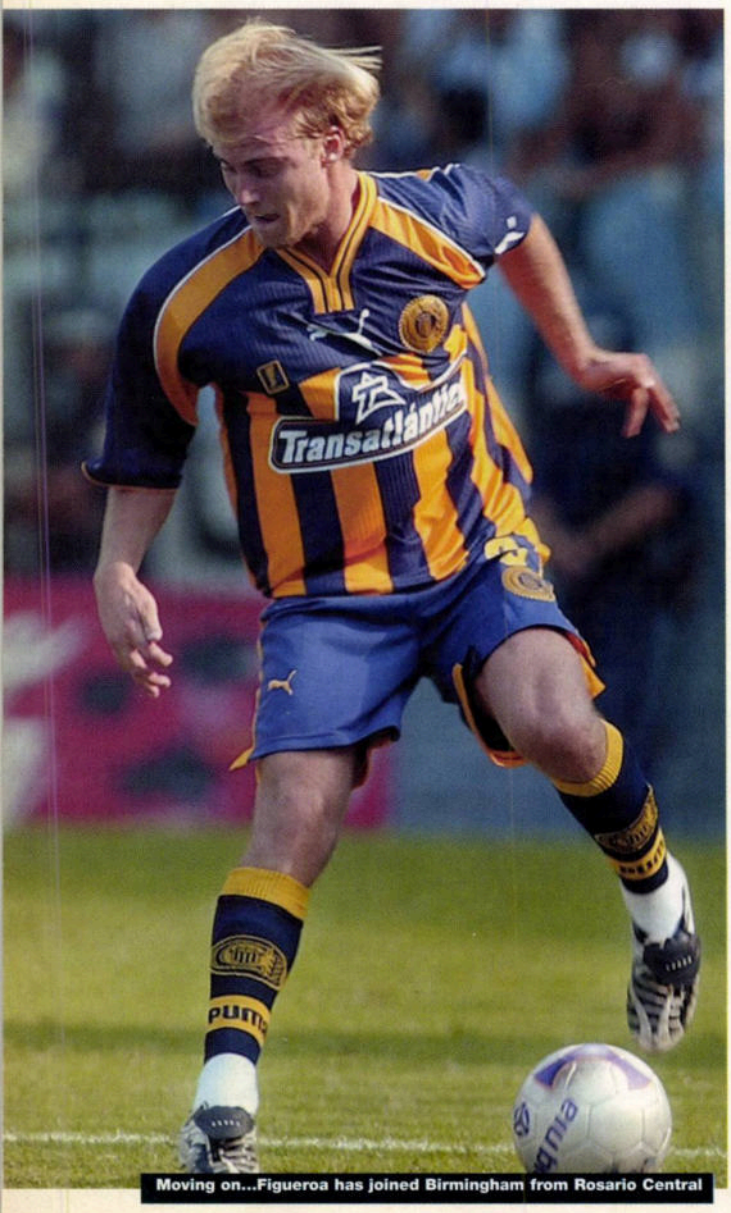
On the international front, a rift between FA president Julio Grondona and national team coach Marcelo Bielsa widened in the run-up to the July 16 friendly against Uruguay, a 2-2 draw. Bielsa called a press conference to complain that from the squad he chose and presented to the FA, two River Plate players were struck off without his knowledge. The clubs know the names only once Bielsa gives them out, but it seems that River, who were due to go on tour, contacted Grondona behind Bielsa's back to have their players released.

'Argentinian players are cheap because their clubs are desperate for money'

War of words

Bielsa made another complaint about Grondona, who had earlier been quoted as saying that he renewed Bielsa's contract after their early World Cup elimination because the coach asked for revenge. Bielsa said: "I did not ask for revenge. I was offered to continue, and accepted."

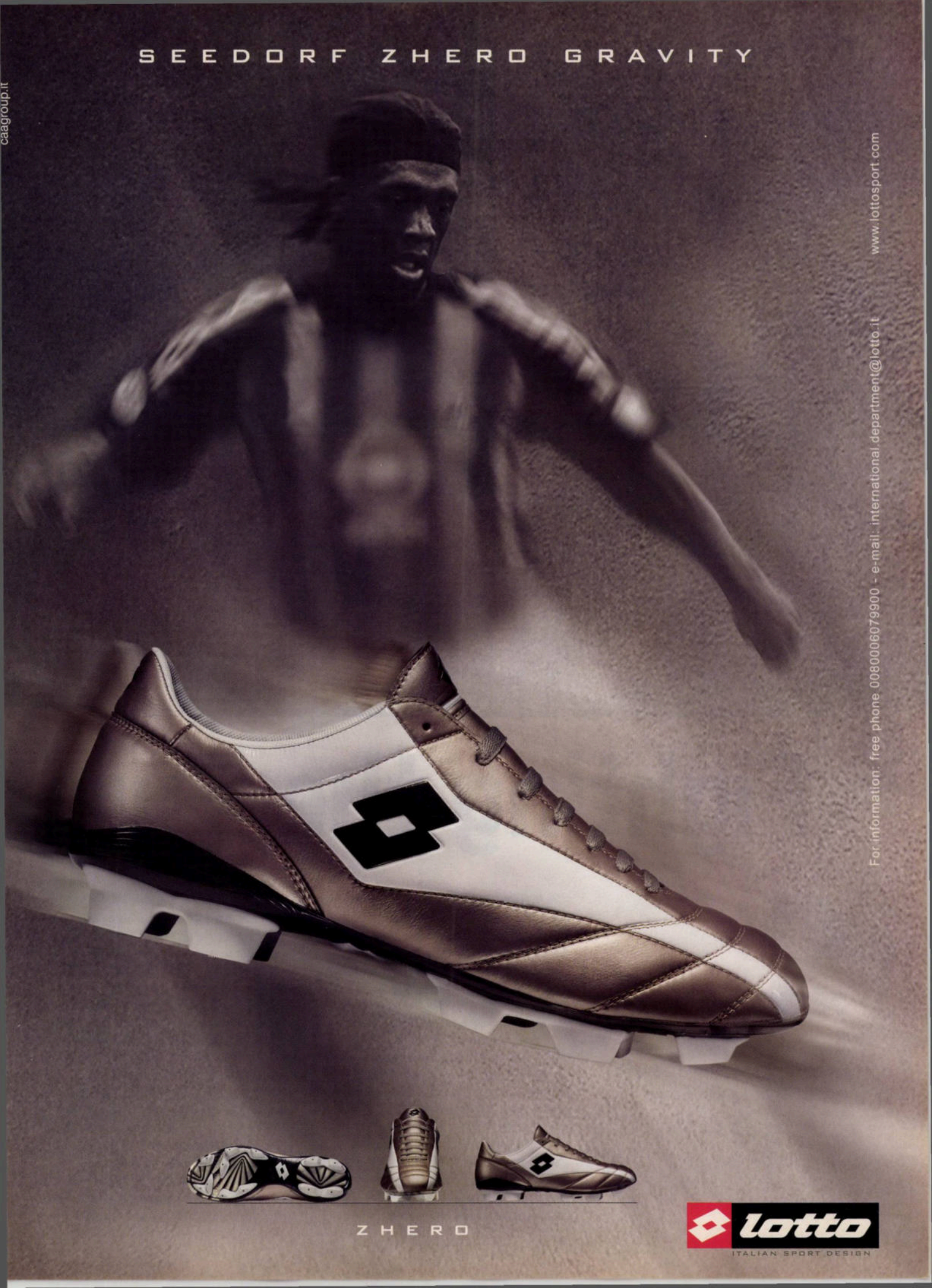
Grondona would not comment on the coach's statement.



Moving on...Figueroa has joined Birmingham from Rosario Central

caagroup.it

SEEDORF ZHERO GRAVITY



For information: free phone 0080006079900 - e-mail: international.department@lotto.it

www.lottosport.com

Sold out...but the vast majority of fans who packed the rafters to watch United's US tour games consider MLS too inferior to take any interest

Fighting the Euro

PAUL GARDNER
in New York

Manchester United's tour only served to highlight the challenges facing Major League Soccer

"WE NEED to be more important. We need to have more credibility." The words of MLS commissioner Don Garber. And they are true enough – so true that they add up to The Great Soccer Platitude.

Soccer's comparative lack of importance when set alongside the other major pro sports – baseball, American football, ice hockey and basketball – is at the core of its struggle for acceptance in the USA.

The not unreasonable hope is that time will take care of that problem. As the sport grows among kids – and it is arguably the leading participant sport at that level – logic says that this country's future adults will be much more familiar with, and more receptive to, the sport.

So goes the accepted wisdom. There has, however, been a glitch in the process. The great US soccer youth boom started in the 1970s. Already, by 1981 the total of under-19 boys and girls playing had reached two million.

So, here we are 22 years later, and the question needs to be asked: where is that huge group now?

It's easy to come up with an answer. If those people became fans and wanted to follow pro soccer, they could do it only until 1984. That was when the North American Soccer League collapsed.

The vacuum lasted for 12 years. So maybe that generation lost interest, turned to other things. It's quite possible. There's never any shortage, in the USA, of activities and entertainments clamouring to get hold of the leisure dollar.

Besides, maybe that generation wasn't soccer-savvy enough. They went to NASL games, but what else did they know? The international game was largely a closed book because there was virtually no soccer on television. On top of that, the performances of the national team throughout the 1970s and 1980s were embarrassingly feeble, so there wasn't even a patriotic handle to grasp.

Things have moved onwards and, it seems, upwards. The new US soccer fans are pretty sophisticated in the ways of global soccer. The number of games available on television – terrestrial, cable, dish – is more than any one person can cope with (GolTV, a soccer-only channel, has recently arrived), while the world's soccer powers now see marketing opportunities in the States.

The vastly-trumpeted Manchester United circus (albeit without shirt-seller supreme David Beckham) has visited the USA this summer and played to sell-out crowds. And the nomadic Italian Supercup (in Libya last year) descended on New York in August. The top Mexican clubs love to play exhibition games in the USA, particularly in Los Angeles, where crowds of over 70,000 are pretty much guaranteed.

Add in the fact that the United States had a pretty good World Cup in Korea and are now ranked 10th in the world (ahead of Italy!) by FIFA, and the fan is likely to have a much stronger grounding in the game than did his counterpart of 20 years ago.

But if the future looks bright, the present is where the problems lie. Commissioner Garber's words about becoming "more important" betray the frustration felt at all levels of the game in the USA.

Garber says there are 50 million players in the country. This has to be an absurdly inflated number, but even half that figure is a formidable total. How is something that big unable to gain the attention, never mind the respect, of the mainstream American media? It gets even more baffling when you realise that a huge percentage of those players are from white, middle-class, suburban families.

American soccer has only itself to blame for this damaging failure. The culprit is not so much MLS, or its predecessor NASL, as the governing body, United States Soccer Federation. The USSF has never made any attempt to mobilise and organise this massive constituency, and have it work systematically as a pressure group on the local and national scene.

Soccer's weakness in this area is internal, but far too often the outside world is blamed. There are those who can find no other explanation for this anomaly than to cry foul and accuse the media of a conspiracy to kill off the sport. This is highly unlikely. But there is enough evidence of an almost pathological dislike of the sport among many American journalists.

A number of columnists, evidently irritated by soccer's refusal to go away, regularly savage it. These people speak with awesome certainty for the whole country – "Americans don't want soccer" – and back up their assertion with pseudo-scientific hogwash about Americans only appreciating 'hand-eye co-ordination' in their sports.

The shrill and xenophobic nature of these attacks suggests that the writers are worried. They fear soccer – heaven knows why; they find they can't ignore it, so they trash it.

Yes, there are all those games on TV – but only a handful are on the main networks. Hardly any American newspapers have full-time soccer writers. Coverage, in short, is grudging, often ill-informed and swamped by baseball or gridiron stories.

Garber needs to tread carefully when the matter of TV comes up. Truth to tell, the MLS ratings on ESPN are poor. Very poor. In an interview with the *Oneonta Daily Star*, Garber explained, with smooth marketing talk, why the ratings were not as bad as they looked. "Today, it's less a matter of ratings as much as the potency of the people watching," he said. "And we have a very, very important core of people, young people from 18 to 35 years old, that watch our games. That demographic is very desirable for advertisers. We also have a very ethnic audience, and that audience is also very important for advertisers."

For sure, the ethnic audience factor is increasingly important. At the beginning of the year, the US government announced that the number of Hispanics in the country – 37 million – made them, for the first time, the largest minority group, ahead of the 36 million blacks. That huge total demands attention. A population approximately equal to that of Argentina or Colombia. Greater than the combined populations of Uruguay, Paraguay, Chile and Bolivia.

Of vital interest to Garber and US soccer in general is the news that two-thirds of the Hispanics are of Mexican origin, and therefore presumably highly soccer-susceptible.

Yet the matter of integrating the Hispanics into the American soccer scene remains dismayingly incomplete. Consider the following:

- For six years MLS had a Game of the Week telecast with one of the main Spanish-language television networks. In 2002 that outlet was lost when Telemundo refused to renew, saying its viewing figures indicated that MLS was not an attraction for Hispanic fans.
- MLS employs 10 head coaches, plus 37 assistant coaches. Only three Hispanics figure in that total, none of them a head coach.
- MLS runs a nationwide network of summer soccer camps for kids aged six to 18. More than 500 coaches are employed – and nearly 90 per cent of those are British, actively recruited in England and imported for the summer.

This is a tricky area for Garber and MLS. The kids of those wealthy white suburban families are an obvious target, but that is a long-term aim. For immediate support – and MLS would dearly love to increase its 15,000 average attendance (a questionable figure anyway) – the Hispanic fans are a more credible option.

But Hispanic fans like Hispanic players and Hispanic-style soccer. MLS gives them too little of both. It is also finding that its new-found energy to build soccer stadiums – a huge step in the right direction – doesn't always work well for Hispanic fans. Those fans tend to be working class, inner-city dwellers. The new stadiums are built where land is cheap – out in the suburbs, often way out. Dallas Burn's switch from the centrally-located Cotton Bowl to a temporary home in suburban Dragon stadium has resulted in attendances slumping from 13,000 to under 7,000 per game – with a large part of the missing 6,000 being Hispanic fans.

A new, soccer-specific home is being built for Burn – but again it is in an area, the city of Frisco 25 miles north of Dallas, that may well not be ideal for Hispanic fans. A similar problem may yet affect Los Angeles Galaxy, with their switch from the Rose Bowl to the state-of-the-art Home Depot Center, just opened in suburban Carson, California.

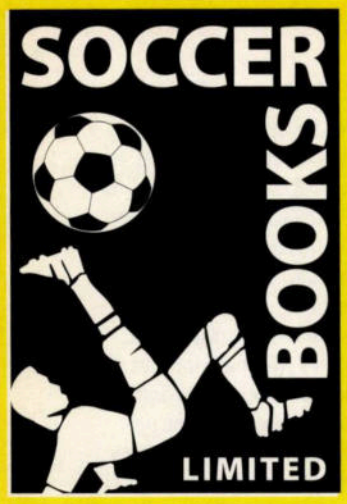
An enigma for Garber to wrestle with – the League's essential move to build soccer stadiums, a move that will greatly help the push for more importance and more credibility, may at the same time estrange it from a vital set of supporters.

A similar problem arises for Garber when he surveys – with a certain amount of envy, no doubt – the sold-out Manchester United games. The fans who stormed the stadiums for those events were not Hispanic. But most of them belong to a highly irritating group known as EuroSnobs. Fans who will watch only the Premiership and Serie A and La Liga and the World Cup on television. Fans who wouldn't be caught dead attending an MLS game, fans who consider MLS so inferior as to be unworthy of their attention.

The United contingent – all beaming smiles at their unarguable success on the field and at the gate – were careful and diplomatic enough to state that they felt they had helped the growth of American soccer. Possibly – though definitely not if their main influence has been to bolster the insufferable EuroSnobs (of whose existence United seemed blissfully unaware).

'These fans wouldn't be caught dead attending an MLS game. It is unworthy of their attention'

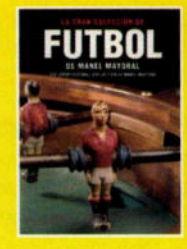
Snobs



A-Z DEL FÚTBOL EUROPEO PREMIUM 2002/2003

Volume 1 of the current edition of this bestseller contains details of thousands of players who play in 19 top European Leagues.

Hardback Price £29.50
Postage Rate 'D'



THE GREAT FOOTBALL COLLECTION OF MANEL MAYORAL

An enormous full-colour photographic book featuring the huge and varied football memorabilia collection of Manel Mayoral. Captions are included in Spanish & English.

Hardback Price £35.00
Postage Rate 'E'

SOCCER – THE WORLD CUP 1930-2002

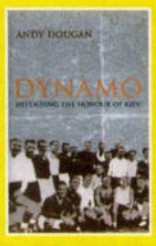
This 5th edition is the definitive history of the biggest footballing event in the World. Every Final Series is written up in detail and every match played is listed in the country-by-country statistical section. Also includes all qualifying competition results.

Softback Price £15.95
Postage Rate 'C'

A-Z DEL FÚTBOL EUROPEO APÉNDICE 2002/2003

Volume 2 contains details of thousands of players from the top divisions of Belarus, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Iceland, Israel, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldavia, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Turkey, Ukraine and Yugoslavia.

Hardback Price £28.50
Postage Rate 'D'



Available again –

DYNAMO – DEFENDING THE HONOUR OF KIEV

The incredible story of football in German-occupied Kiev during World War II. FC Start, who included Dynamo Kiev players, became national heroes as they beat German and other teams but with brutal consequences.

Hardback Price £14.99
Postage Rate 'C'

SOCCER – THE EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1958-2000

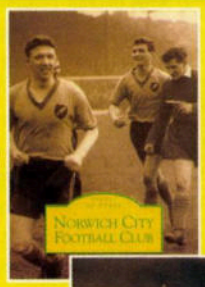
The new edition of the definitive history of the European Nations' Championship features write-ups of each series to 2000, all qualifying results and scorers and a full country-by-country records of games played.

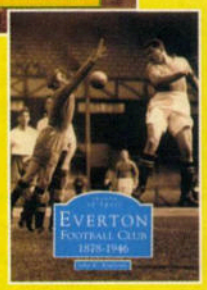
Softback Price £15.95
Postage Rate 'C'

ARCHIVE PHOTOGRAPHS SERIES

These 128-page softback books contain over 200 excellent quality black and white photographs including some of the earliest images available for each club.

Price of each £9.99 (unless marked otherwise) **Postage Rate of each 'B'** *Titles Available –*





Aberdeen FC 1903-1973
Accrington Stanley FC *(£11.99)*
Airdrieonians FC *(£11.99)*
Ayr United FC *(£10.99)*
Birmingham City FC *(£10.99)*
Bristol City FC 1894-1967 *(£10.99)*
Bristol City FC 1966-2002 *(£11.99)*
Bristol Rovers FC *(£11.99)*
Burnley FC 1882-1968 *(£10.99)*
Cambridge United FC *(£10.99)*
Cardiff City FC 1899-1947 *(£12.99)*
Cardiff City 1947-1971 *(£12.99)*
Cardiff City FC 1971-1993
Celtic FC 1887-1967 *(£10.99)*
Charlton Athletic FC *(£10.99)*
Chester City FC *(£11.99)*
Crewe Alexandra FC *(£10.99)*
Crystal Palace FC
Doncaster Rovers FC *(£10.99)*
Dundee FC 1893-1977 *(£10.99)*
Everton FC 1878-1946 *(£10.99)*
Gillingham FC *(£10.99)*
Greenock Morton FC 1874-1999
Heart of Midlothian *(£11.99)*
Hibernian FC 1875-1975 *(£10.99)*
Hull City FC *(£11.99)*
Kilmarnock FC *(£10.99)*
Leeds United FC *(£10.99)*
Leeds United In Europe
Manchester City FC *(£11.99)*
Merthyr Tydfil FC
Millwall FC 1885-1939
Millwall FC 1940-2001 *(£11.99)*
Motherwell FC 1886-1999
Newport County FC 1912-1960 *(£10.99)*
Norwich City FC *(£10.99)*
Plymouth Argyle 1886-1986
Queen of the South FC
Raith Rovers FC 1991/92-1995/96 *(£10.99)*
Rangers FC 1872-1964
Reading FC 1871-1997 *(£10.99)*
Rotherham United FC *(£10.99)*
Rotherham United FC *(£10.99)*
St. Johnstone FC *(£11.99)*
Scarborough FC *(£11.99)*
Southend United FC *(£10.99)*
Stoke City FC *(£11.99)*
Swansea Town FC 1912-1964
Swindon Town FC
Torquay United FC 1899-1999 *(£10.99)*
Tottenham Hotspur FC 1882-1952
Tottenham Ht. Since 1953 *(£11.99)*
Tranmere Rovers FC
West Bromwich Albion 100 Years at the Hawthorns
Wolverhampton Wanderers FC *(£10.99)*
Workington FC 1872-1950
Wrexham FC 1872-1950
Wrexham FC 1950-2000 *(£10.99)*
York City FC

Also available in a similar format: –
Inside Scottish Football *(£10.99)*
Maine Road Voices *(£10.99)*
Voices of 1966 (England World Cup)
Coventry City 100 Greats *(£12.00)*
Crystal Palace 100 Greats *(£12.00)*
Doncaster Rovers 100 Greats *(£12.99)*
Ipswich Town 100 Greats *(£12.00)*
Reading – 100 Greats
Sheffield United 100 Greats *(£12.00)*
Southend United 100 Greats *(£12.00)*
Walsall 100 Greats *(£12.00)*
West Bromwich Albion 100 Greats *(£12.00)*
A Season To Remember – Burnley 1959/60 *(£12.99)*
A Season To Remember – Colchester United 1991/92 *(£12.99)*
Ayr United Classics *(£12.00)*
Crystal Palace Classics *(£12.99)*
Manchester City Classics *(£12.00)*
Millwall Classics *(£12.00)*
Walsall Classics *(£12.00)*

www.soccer-books.co.uk • info@soccer-books.co.uk

FOOTBALL IN EUROPE 2002/2003

Back again after a long absence, this 4th edition contains Division 1 & 2 results, tables and cup results for all European countries. Also with international team line-ups plus statistics for Champions League & UEFA Cup games.

Softback Price £17.50
Postage Rate 'C'

THE EUROPEAN CUP 1955-2003

A statistical title containing full team line-ups and results for every match (including qualifying rounds) played in the European Champions Cup between 1955 and 2003.

Softback Price £27.50
Postage Rate 'D'

THE COMPLETE RESULTS & LINE-UPS OF THE EUROPEAN FAIRS CUP 1955-1971

A full statistical record of the Fairs Cup competition which was the precursor to the UEFA Cup. This book contains full line-ups and statistics for every match ever played in the competition.

Softback Price £22.50
Postage Rate 'B'

THE BRITISH HOME FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS 1884-1984

The first ever complete statistical record of the British Home Championship which ran for a hundred years between 1884 and 1984 – predating the World Cup by 46 years! Includes results, team line-ups and scorers.

Softback Price £11.99
Postage Rate 'B'

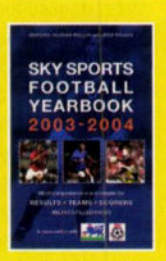
NORTH & LATIN AMERICAN FOOTBALL GUIDE 2002/2003

The 10th edition of this bestselling guide is packed with updated information about both domestic and international football in CONCACAF and South American countries during 2002/03.

Softback Price £29.50
Postage Rate 'D'

Also available – Postage Rate 'D' : –

2001/02	*NORTH & LATIN AMERICAN GUIDE*	*£29.50*
2000/01	*NORTH & LATIN AMERICAN GUIDE*	*£27.50*
1999/00	*NORTH & LATIN AMERICAN GUIDE*	*£27.50*
1998/99	*NORTH & LATIN AMERICAN GUIDE*	*£27.50*
1997/98	*NORTH & LATIN AMERICAN GUIDE*	*£27.50*
1996/97	*NORTH & LATIN AMERICAN GUIDE*	*£27.50*
1995/96	*NORTH & LATIN AMERICAN GUIDE*	*£27.50*
1994/95	*NORTH & LATIN AMERICAN GUIDE*	*£27.50*
1993/94	*NORTH & LATIN AMERICAN GUIDE*	*£27.50*



(ROTHMANS) SKY SPORTS FOOTBALL YEARBOOK 2003-2004

Formerly the Rothmans Football Yearbook, the 34th edition of this bestselling football yearbook contains around 1,000-pages packed with statistical information about British football.

Softback Edition Price £19.99
Hardback Edition Price £35.00
Postage Rate of each 'D'

Back issues also available – Postage Rate 'D' : –

2002-2003	*ROTHMANS HARDBACK EDITION*	*£35.00*
2002-2003	*ROTHMANS SOFTBACK EDITION*	*£19.99*
2001-2002	*ROTHMANS HARDBACK EDITION*	*£30.00*
2001-2002	*ROTHMANS SOFTBACK EDITION*	*£18.99*
2000-2001	*ROTHMANS HARDBACK EDITION*	*£30.00*
2000-2001	*ROTHMANS SOFTBACK EDITION*	*£18.99*
1999-2000	*ROTHMANS SOFTBACK EDITION*	*£18.99*
1995-96	*ROTHMANS HARDBACK EDITION*	*£30.00*
1992-93	*ROTHMANS SOFTBACK EDITION*	*£18.99*
1991-92	*ROTHMANS SOFTBACK EDITION*	*£18.99*
1990-91	*ROTHMANS SOFTBACK EDITION*	*£18.99*
1983-84	*ROTHMANS HARDBACK EDITION*	*£30.00*

UEFA CUP 1971-2002

A statistical title containing full team line-ups and results for every match played in the UEFA Cup between 1971 and 2002.

Softback Price £29.00
Postage Rate 'D'

CUP WINNERS' CUP 1960-1999

A statistical title containing full team line-ups and results for every match played in the European Cup Winners' Cup between 1960 and 1999.

Softback Price £26.50
Postage Rate 'C'

INTERNATIONAL LINE-UPS & STATISTICS SERIES

Sale price £2.50 each – Postage 'A'

Argentina 1902-1970 • Argentina 1970-1997
Australia 1922-1998 • Brazil 1914-1970
Canada 1885-1995 • Chile 1910-1970
Chile 1971-1998 • Colombia 1938-1996
Ecuador 1938-1997 • Eire 1921-1996
England 1872-1960 • England 1961-1996
Israel 1934-1995 • New Zealand 1885-1995
N. Ireland 1882-1997 • Paraguay 1919-1996
Peru 1927-1996 • Scotland 1872-1960
Scotland 1961-2000 • South Africa 1992-2002
Uruguay 1905-1955 • Uruguay 1956-2001
U.S.A. 1885-1995 • Wales 1876-1960
Wales 1961-1996 • Olympic Football 1900-1964
Copa America 1916-1956
Copa America 1957-1999

SOCCER BOOKS LIMITED

A-Z DEL FÚTBOL GLOBUS 2003
The new edition of this book contains updated information about players in Albania, Australia, Bolivia, Bosnia, Bulgaria, China, Georgia, Hong Kong, Honduras, Japan, Kazakhstan, Malta, Northern Ireland, Singapore, South Africa and South Korea.
Hardback Price £19.50 ***Postage Rate 'B'***

THE P.F.A. FOOTBALLERS' WHO'S WHO 2003/2004
The 8th edition of this bestseller contains facts & figures for over 2,000 professional footballers playing in England and Wales.
Softback Price £16.99 ***Postage Rate 'C'***

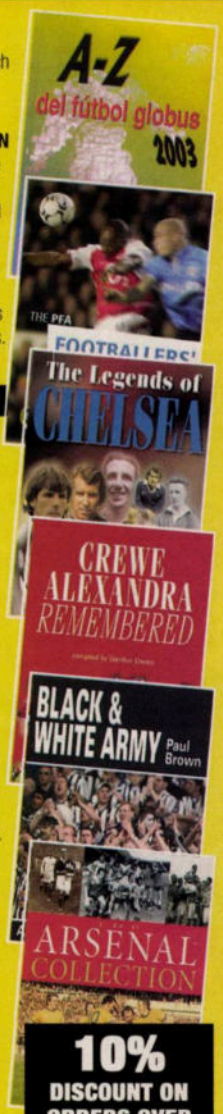
THE LEGENDS OF CHELSEA
This title from Breedon Books contains a look at one hundred of the most renowned players to appear for Chelsea since 1905.
Hardback Price £16.99 ***Postage Rate 'D'***

CREWE ALEXANDRA REMEMBERED
A pictorial history of Crewe Alexandra from Breedon Books which includes around 300 illustrations.
Hardback Price £14.99 ***Postage Rate 'D'***

BLACK & WHITE ARMY – A SEASON SUPPORTING THE TOON
A review of Newcastle United's 2002-2003 season in which the author reports on his experiences travelling with the Toon Army through domestic and European competitions via Barcelona and Bolton, Milan and Manchester, Sarajevo and Sunderland.
Softback Price £9.99 ***Postage Rate 'C'***

THE ARSENAL COLLECTION
A collection of 150 photos of Arsenal's greatest teams & players featuring teams from the 1930's, 1940's, 1971 and late 1980's.
Softback Price £12.99 ***Postage Rate 'C'***

http://www.soccer-books.co.uk e-mail – info@soccer-books.co.uk



FULL GAME VIDEOS

Available in – **PAL-FORMAT**
(suitable for use in UK, Europe and Australasia)
and **NTSC-FORMAT**
(only available in the USA and Canada)

(All prices include postage – Overseas sent via Airmail)

The following tapes are each priced – £17.99 UK £21.99 Overseas (£22.95 NTSC)

1970 World Cup Final – Brazil vs Italy
1974 World Cup Final – Holland vs W. Germany
1978 World Cup Final – Holland vs Argentina
1978 World Cup Group 4 – Holland vs Scotland
1966 W. Cup Quarter-Final – Portugal vs N. Korea
1960 European Cup Final – Real Madrid vs Eintracht Frankfurt

The following tapes are each priced – £15.99 UK £19.99 Overseas Available in PAL-format only

1967 European Cup Final – Celtic vs Inter Milan
1972 F.A. Cup Final – Liverpool vs Arsenal
1975 F.A. Cup Final – West Ham vs Fulham
1974 League Cup Final – Wolves vs Man. City
1980 League Cup Final – Wolves vs Nott. Forest
Bellissimo! Wales 2-1 Italy (16th October 2002)

FOOTBALL LEAGUE TABLES 1888-2003
The 6th edition contains every Football & F.A. Premier League final table together with every Scottish League table 1888-2003 + Cup Semi-final & Final information.
Softback Price £9.99 ***Postage Rate 'B'***

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL TABLES 1889-2003
This 2nd edition contains the final League tables from 1889-2003 for the Conference, it's 3 feeder Leagues plus the 4 North Western Leagues in England (which were not included in the 1st edition).
Softback Price £9.95 ***Postage Rate 'B'***

PLAYFAIR FOOTBALL ANNUAL 2003-2004
The 55th edition of this pocket-sized yearbook is packed with statistical info about the 2002/03 season.
Softback Price £6.99 ***Postage Rate 'A'***

THE SUPPORTERS' GUIDE TO PREMIER & FOOTBALL LEAGUE CLUBS 2004
The 20th edition of this guide contains updated info. for the 92 Premier and Football League Clubs + 2002/03 results, tables and England International statistics.
Softback Price £6.99 ***Postage Rate 'B'***

THE SUPPORTERS' GUIDE TO FOOTBALL PROGRAMMES 2004
Produced in conjunction with *Programme Monthly* magazine, this book contains an appraisal of the programmes of all 92 Premier and Football League clubs during the 2002/03 season.
Softback Price £6.99 ***Postage Rate 'A'***

THE ASTON VILLA COLLECTION
A collection of 150 photos from Villa's greatest era starting with the first senior trophy the club ever won, all Villa's domestic Cup Finals, and culminating in that glorious night in Rotterdam in 1982.
Softback Price £12.99 ***Postage Rate 'C'***

THE LIVERPOOL COLLECTION
A collection of 150 photos from Liverpool's greatest eras including 11 League championships up to 1990, three European championships, five FA Cup Final victories to 1992, two UEFA Cup Final wins, and four successive League Cup Final triumphs!
Softback Price £12.99 ***Postage Rate 'C'***

THE WEST HAM UNITED COLLECTION
A collection of 150 photos from West Ham's greatest eras including images from the 1964, 1975 and 1980 F.A. Cup wins plus the 1966 Cup-Winners' Cup victory.
Softback Price £12.99 ***Postage Rate 'C'***

SPURS – THE ILLUSTRATED HISTORY
An updated edition of Breedon Books' illustrated history of Tottenham Hotspur which tells the story of Spurs to the end of the 2002/2003 Season.
Hardback Price £16.99 ***Postage Rate 'D'***

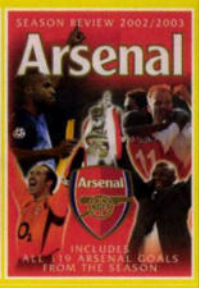
IT'S BURNLEY NOT BARCELONA – THE SEARCH FOR CHAMPAGNE WITH BEER MONEY
A humorous report on Burnley's eventful 2002-2003 season from a long-standing supporter.
Softback Price £12.95 ***Postage Rate 'C'***

10% DISCOUNT ON ORDERS OVER £60

2002/2003 SEASON HIGHLIGHT VIDEOS

VHS PAL-format tapes only *(Prices include postage)*
UK Price of each £15.99 Overseas Price £19.99

ARSENAL • CELTIC • CHELSEA • EVERTON • LEEDS UNITED
LIVERPOOL • MANCHESTER CITY • MANCHESTER UNITED
NEWCASTLE UNITED • RANGERS • WEST BROMWICH ALBION
WEST HAM UNITED • WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS



2002/2003 SEASON HIGHLIGHT DVDs

PAL-format DVDs only. These Region 'O' discs can play on all PAL-compatible DVD players.

Postage Rate of each 'A'

Arsenal *(£20.00)* • **Celtic** *(£20.00)* • **Chelsea** *(£16.00)*
Everton *(£16.00)* • **Leeds U.** *(£16.00)* • **Liverpool** *(£20.00)*
Manchester City *(£20.00)* • **Man. United** *(£20.00)*
Newcastle United *(£20.00)* • **Rangers** *(£20.00)*
West Brom. Albion *(£16.00)* • **West Ham United** *(£16.00)*
Wolverhampton Wanderers *(£16.00)*

ORDERING INFORMATION

DELIVERY – UK 5-14 days • Europe 2-6 weeks • North America 3-5 weeks • Elsewhere up to 14 weeks • Airmail to all parts, 3-14 days.

PAYMENT – We accept: All Major Credit Cards • £ Sterling Cheques, Money Orders, Postal Orders, Switch & Delta debit cards or Cash • US $ Cheques, Drafts and Money Orders • Overseas Currency Banknotes for most countries at current Tourist Selling Rates • Euro (€) Banknotes

Postage Rate	A	B	C	D	E
UK Postage	£0.95	£1.50	£3.00	£4.00	£5.00
Surface Postage	£1.50	£2.50	£3.50	£6.00	£9.00
Airmail Postage	£3.00	£5.00	£7.00	£11.00	£15.00
	Maximum UK Postage £5.00				

ORDER FORM

(219) **TITLES** | PRICE £ p | POST £ p

Send to:
SOCCER BOOKS LTD. (WORLD SOCCER),
72 ST. PETERS AVENUE,
CLEETHORPES,
DN35 8HU. ENGLAND
Tel: (01472) 696226
(24 Hour Orderline)
Fax: (01472) 698546

FROM:

COST	
ORDERS OVER £60 LESS 10%	
SUBTOTAL	
+POST	
TOTAL	

Please make cheques payable to Soccer Books Limited

I enclose cheque/cash/British P.O. for the amount shown

I wish to pay by Credit Card ☐ Expiry date.....
MasterCard Visa Amex Switch Delta
Card Number : – Switch Issue N° .....

10% DISCOUNT For World Soccer Subscribers Quote your subscription code

e-mail – info@soccer-books.co.uk

In the big league on merit

Manchester United's new American goalkeeper tells Will Kuhns about his challenge in England

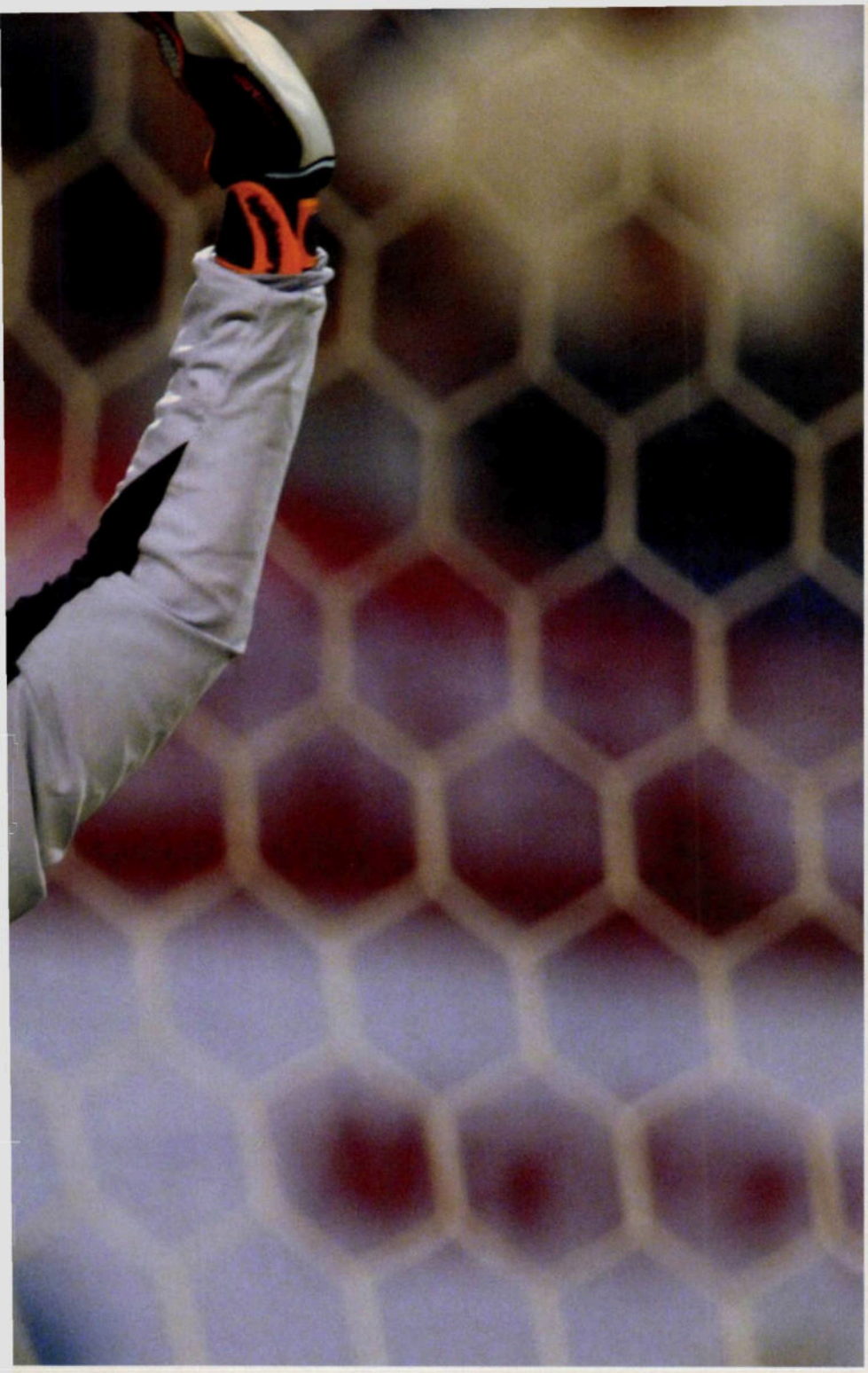
FOR GOALKEEPER Tim Howard, any comfort gained by making his Manchester United debut in the stadium he has called home for four years was outweighed by the nervousness of knowing almost every person dear to him sat among the almost 80,000 spectators. But Howard demonstrated that at 24 and with just nine caps for the United States he can deal with pressure.

In United's 4-1 exhibition victory over Champions League runners-up Juventus at Giants stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey, Howard showed jitters and poise, but more of the latter as he showcased his shot-blocking.

Howard kept reminding reporters what a far cry this pressure was from an actual Premier League start, but he could not deny what a huge leap he had already made from his hometown of North Brunswick just down the road. He logged an even more steady 90 minutes three nights later in a 3-1 win against Barcelona.

"I want to watch my tongue because I don't want to say I'm too excited, but I am looking forward to the new challenge," said Howard.

With that, he nearly mastered understatement,



but his mother, Esther, captured the family's emotions when saying: "In our wildest dreams, I don't think we ever had him starting [his European career] with Manchester United," she said. "In a real fantasy, maybe it would end up there, but certainly not right off the bat like this. I am so pleased for him because he is the most dedicated, hard-working person I know."

Mother might not seem the most impartial judge of her son's diligence, but none who followed his path up the US soccer ladder would refute her.

Tim Mulqueen, now an assistant with Major League Soccer's Kansas City Wizards, was a youth coach when he began working with Howard, then 12. As Mulqueen rose up the coaching ranks, he pulled Howard along with him – first to a lower division club when Howard was a high school senior, then to MetroStars, New York's MLS club. At the time, skipping college for professional soccer was rare in the States, but it has become increasingly common, in part because of Howard's success. The experience has helped prepare him for the rigours of English football, according to Mulqueen. "He knows that it's a big situation, but I don't think he feels the weight of the world on his shoulders," says the coach. "He's aware that there will be a significant learning process with both the national team and Manchester United. He approaches everything as a process and he's going to work incredibly hard."

The latest in a line of American keepers to find work in England, Howard seems to support the hypothesis that the United States produces good goalkeepers because of the emphasis on hand-eye co-ordination in the more popular American sports. Soccer and basketball were equal passions for Howard throughout his upbringing; he finally eschewed hoops at around the age of 17.

"Let's face it, everything you do in basketball is an explosive movement, and as goalkeepers, that's all we do," he said. "We don't run long distances, nor do we run short distances, really. Everything's a sprint, a jump, a push-off, like basketball. At the time, I didn't play it [to improve as a goalkeeper] but it probably helped."

Understudy to Meola

With the MetroStars, Howard patiently waited his turn for three years, initially serving as understudy to Tony Meola, a veteran of the 1990 and 1994 World Cups. Then, once he had gained a regular starting place, he earned MLS Best XI honours in the 2001 and 2002 seasons. That consistency earned him call-ups to the national team camp, where he focused on emulating Brad Friedel (Blackburn) and Kasey Keller (Tottenham).

"I look at the guys who have gone in front of me – Kasey, Brad and Tony – they've been consistent over a long period," says Howard. "It's not like they've come and gone in four years. These guys have been doing it for 12-plus years at the top level. I admire those guys for what they've done."

United's goalkeeper coach, Tony Coton, believes Howard has the tools to surpass Friedel and Keller both in the US team and in the Premier League, though Howard's two pre-season outings earned measured praise from manager Sir Alex Ferguson, who reiterated that he would vie for the starting spot with Fabien Barthez.

Those two games may or may not have any bearing on Howard's standing with United this season, but they at least diverted attention away from his inherited disorder, Tourette's syndrome. Although Howard's case does not include the swearing often associated with TS, it nonetheless led to plenty of speculation when he first entered the United spotlight. Howard's involuntary tics are hardly noticeable, yet he accepts that educating people about the disorder is essential.

"This is the hand I've been dealt, so this is one of the things I'm known for, and that's fine with me," he says. "I'm not going to shy away from it. People are going to harp on that in good ways and in bad…I just hope they judge me on my soccer."

'Having Tourette's syndrome is one of the things I'm known for. I just hope people judge me on my soccer'

London calling

Chelsea's £17m signing talks to Kevin Palmer about his move from Blackburn

WORLD SOCCER: Were you surprised that Chelsea paid £17million for you?
DAMIEN DUFF: It's obviously a bit of a silly fee, but it doesn't bother me at all. All I need to do is play as well as I did for Blackburn at the back end of last season and prove I'm worth it.

Were you holding out for more cash by waiting a week before agreeing to sign?
Not at all. A contract was on the table the first time I met people from Chelsea and that was never the big issue. If it was down to money, I'd have signed straight away, but this was the biggest decision of my life, so why not think about it for a few days? Having considered it, things felt right and I can't wait to get going now.

The newspapers suggested you favoured a move to Manchester United. Is that true?

Chelsea expects...Duff (right) knows that trophies have to be won to justify the large sums spent on him and his fellow newcomers

Chelsea was the only option for me, whatever the papers might have said. I wasn't hoping anyone else would make a bid as I never really wanted to leave Blackburn.

What attracted you to Chelsea?

Playing in the Champions League was a major attraction. I watch the games every week on TV and it always seemed something of a dream. Now I will get the chance to play against the best in Europe every week. I spoke to [Republic of Ireland manager] Brian Kerr and all my friends, and they came back with the same answer – go and give it a lash. I'm determined to make sure I do that.

What can this Chelsea side achieve after a summer of big spending?

These are exciting times with all the money coming into the club, and there is a real buzz around the place, that's for sure. You look at all the players coming in and it's obvious that expectations will be even bigger than they normally are at this club. Chelsea expect to win trophies every season, but we don't need to be told that after all the money that has been spent.

Are you worried about the change of lifestyle in London?

It has been mad since I came down here. I had a nice quiet life in Blackburn and everyone left me alone, but it's been absolute madness since I joined Chelsea. It's been a total whirlwind, but I am ready for it. This move was right for me, so I might have to put up with a bit of a change of lifestyle as a result.

Are you worried that the obvious temptations associated with life in London will affect you?

I don't really do anything too eccentric in my private life, and people who know me will tell you that my time off is generally spent with my girlfriend or relaxing. My career is everything to me, and I always feel rest is the best thing to do in between games and looking after yourself. I like going out for a drink occasionally, but I'm not the type to go out getting drunk every five minutes, or whatever.

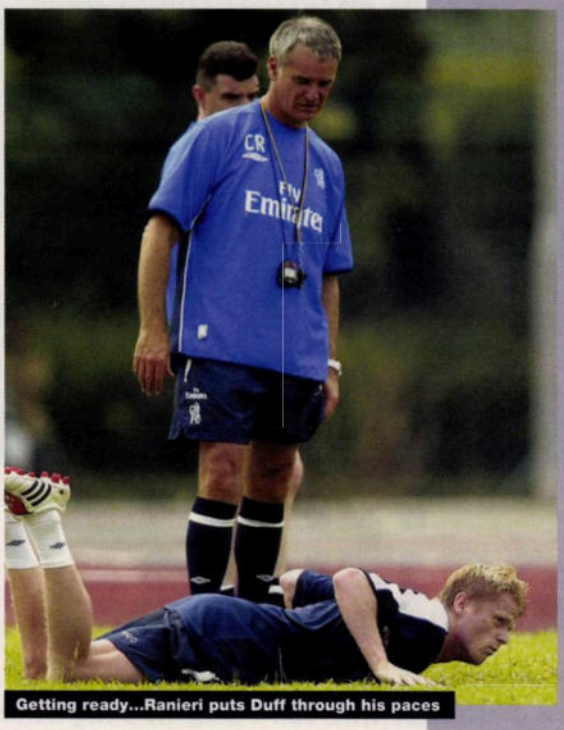
Claudio Ranieri, your new manager, has spoken of his desire to solve your ongoing hamstring problems. Are you happy to go along with his ideas?

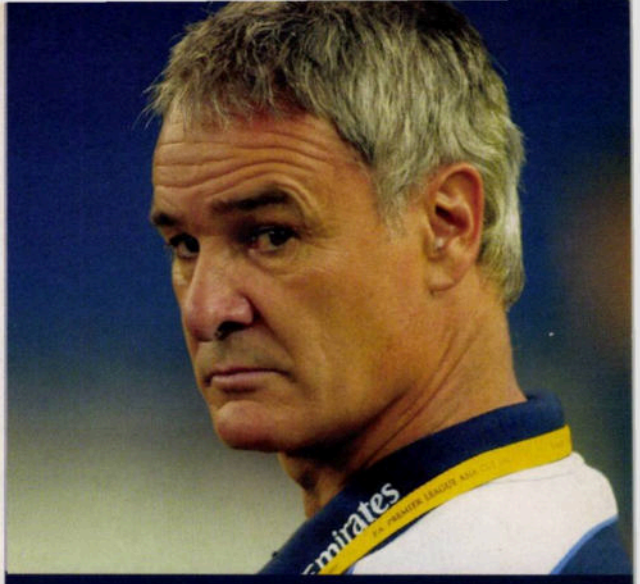
I have been pushed and prodded by doctors every day since I got here! They are trying to help the problem, and I will look at anything that might help. The Italians have their own way of doing things and they have me jumping over things and testing all different parts of my body. They also want me to work on my posture. I'm probably sitting wrong now, they would tell you, but I suppose it's my whole mechanics that I need to look at. If they say I don't walk right, I don't breathe right or whatever, I will look at it. The only trouble is I have been doing all that for the last 24 years so it might not be that easy to change overnight.

Will this move be good news for the Ireland side?

Hopefully I can improve my game as a result. We have got ourselves back in the running for Euro 2004 with a couple of good wins in our last two games, and we will be looking to win our last two games to finish the job off. The games against Russia and Switzerland are massive now, and we will have to be at our best to get what we need.

'I had a nice quiet life in Blackburn; since I joined Chelsea it's been a whirlwind, but I'm ready for it'


Getting ready...Ranieri puts Duff through his paces



RANIERI ON DUFF...

"THE FIRST TIME I saw Damien play, I remember picking him out as something special because he was so direct when he received the ball. He is also very clever and has a great philosophy on the game, which is something I really like.

"I never have the attitude that you try to get around a problem. Instead, I always want someone to attack it and overcome it. Damien has my idea on how the game should be played and there are not too many players like him around. I look at Inter and they have been looking for a left winger for the past two years. Now Chelsea have one of the very best in the game.

"For me, Damien is world class already, but I know he wants to improve. The material we have at the moment is very good, and hopefully we can make it even better.

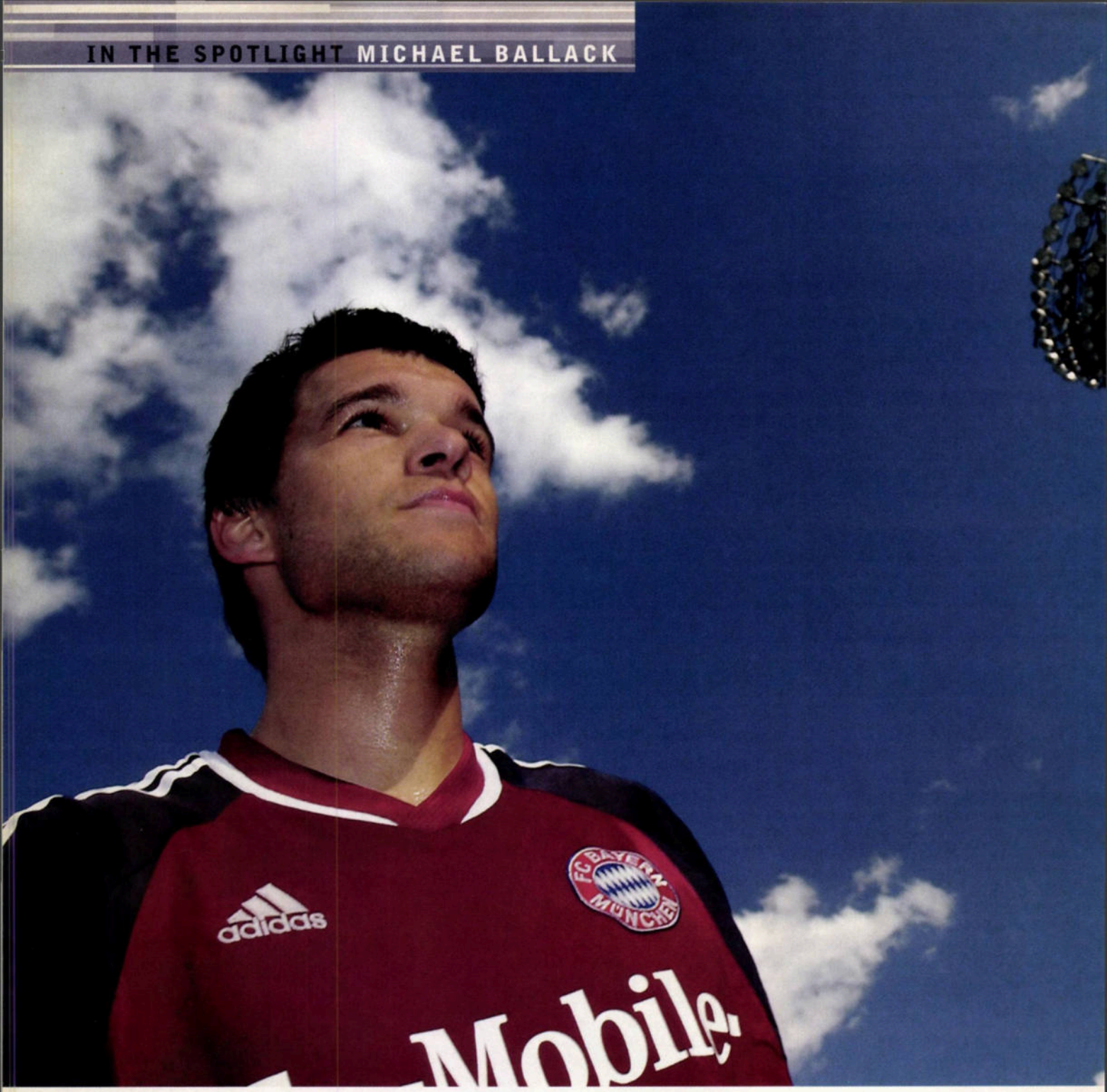
"I know we have to treat him properly. I may tell him to be careful and not push things too early because he has had some problems with his hamstring. I hope the squad rotation system will help him with that. He can't play every game, but I hope it gets to the stage where I am resting him after playing so often and not losing him due to injury. Also, we are trying very hard to work on ways to make sure he does not suffer with so many problems in the future.

"There are so many areas where he could improve his game. His right foot, his heading and his tactics can all improve. I hope he will do all that in a Chelsea shirt.

"I like the mentality he brings to this club. I want more players who have the ability to fit into the style of play easily, and that means players who come from this country. There is no problem with language or anything like that. And when he has a spirit like Damien, it rubs off on the rest of the players.

"Can he replace Gianfranco Zola? That would be too much to ask. Gianfranco is a great champion and I don't want to put pressure on Damien by saying he can be as good as him one day. Damien is only 24, and time will tell whether he can come through."

'He's my sort of player'



Poll position

Keir Radnedge on the Bayern midfielder who can't stop winning awards – on and off the pitch

MICHAEL BALLACK increased his command over the Bundesliga's personality rankings when he was voted Footballer of the Year for the second season in a row. This time he did not even have a Bayern Munich team-mate to run him close – as in the case of Oliver Kahn last year.

Ballack polled 263 of the 867 votes gathered in by weekly magazine *Kicker* to finish 96 points clear of runner-up Fredi Bobic (167), with Bayern's Giovane Elber further back on 96.

To be fair, Ballack has a magic touch with polls right now. Earlier this year club president Franz Beckenbauer said Ballack was better than Zinedine Zidane, and the midfielder also topped a women's magazine poll for "the most erotic footballer".

Ballack's award certainly wiped away any lingering doubts over his commitment, once queried by former Germany coach Berti Vogts. Ballack drove Bayern to the League and Cup double in his first season in the Bavarian capital. Now he can turn his attention again to that elusive prize at the end of the Champions League rainbow. Ballack was a runner-up in 2002 with Bayer Leverkusen

'Sooner or later Ballack will be king of European football. He is more dangerous than Zidane'

Bayern Munich president Franz Beckenbauer

and then shared in Bayern's humiliatingly early exit last season.

But this will prove a mere blip in his career, according to his club president.

Beckenbauer, still a top personality in the German game, says: "Sooner or later Ballack will be king of European football. He is five years younger than Zidane but he is more dangerous around goal. He never wastes a chance to get among the action – he's been a great signing."

Ballack's popularity extends beyond the pitch. Soft drinks giant Coca-Cola, a sponsor of Bayern, the German national team and the 2006 World Cup, has him on its team.

His image is everything the big companies want. He has star quality on the pitch but off it he has the all-round sportsman's image – Ballack enjoys his skiing holidays – tied in with the family image represented by partner Simone and their two children.

But Ballack has another audience. Readers of the populist magazine *Max* voted him overwhelmingly as their sexiest male pin-up ahead of pole vaulters Tim Lobinger and Lars Borgeling. Ballack accepted the vote modestly, saying: "I think I'd have chosen other people as most erotic sportsman – still, there are worse polls to win!"

Ballack is a man who knows his own mind. He likes fast cars but only if they are black or silver, and he has used them regularly to put a distance between himself and the media.

Crossed swords

A habit of speaking his mind has landed Ballack in trouble a number of times. Once was in his Leverkusen days when he crossed swords publicly with then coach Vogts. A second time was in the middle of last season when he complained that Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld played him too deep in midfield.

"Bayern signed me to score goals from midfield but how can I do that if I can't get near the penalty box?" argued Ballack. Disciplinarian Hitzfeld reacted by hitting him with a £5,000 fine. But, significantly, Ballack ended the term with 10 goals as Bayern's third highest marksman.

Ballack has a sharp eye for his image, just like his English equivalent, David Beckham. That's why he prefers to wear the contentious No 13 on his back – as he did for Germany at the World Cup last year and as he does for Bayern.

Superstition plays a consistent role in Ballack's career. His father, for example, refused to watch his son at the World Cup because, according to Ballack jnr, "he came to Glasgow for the Champions League Final and we lost".

"I'm not always superstitious," says Ballack, "but I know what I like, and feeling comfortable from top to toe is the language of confidence and success in football."

It's not the only language Ballack speaks, of course. But, apart from his native German, he has a better grasp of Russian than of English – which sets him apart from most of his transfer-seeking fellow superstars. "At school," says Ballack, "I was good at German, history, maths and Russian, and bad at chemistry and English. I was better at Spanish even than English. It's stupid, really, because most people find Russian harder than English, but for me it was the other way round."

Similarly, Ballack likes to turn football matches upside down. As he likes to boast: "The bigger the challenge, the better I play."

Driving force...Michael Ballack

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE WORLD SOCCER SUBSCRIBERS CLUB?

"Everyone reads World Soccer"
former Ajax, Barcelona and Holland coach Louis Van Gaal

"Respected and prestigious"
Reuters

USA

1-year subscription
Pay $71.72, saving 20% off the full price of $89.65
2-year subscription
Pay $134.47, saving 25% off the full price of $179.30

	1 YEAR (save up to 20%)		2 YEARS (save up to 25%)	
	Full rate	You Pay	Full rate	You Pay
Europe €	78.00	62.40	156.00	117.00
USA $	89.65	71.72	179.30	134.47
Rest of world £	63.30	50.64	126.60	94.95
UK £	37.70	32.04	75.40	60.32

Overseas copies are delivered within 3-12 days of the on-sale date. UK copies are delivered 1st class.

Offer open to new subscribers only. Please allow up to six weeks for delivery of your first subscription issue (up to eight weeks overseas).
Your gift will be delivered separately within 28 days, and is subject to availability.
Offer closes 31/10/2003.
For enquiries please call +44 (0) 845 676 7778 or email ipcsubs@qss-uk.com.
£15.08 offer available in the UK on direct debit

For a faster service call the order hotline on **+44(0)845 676 7778**

(7 days a week, 9am - 9pm GMT) Please quote code 41H for the gift

If ordering from the USA call toll free on 1-888-313-5528 (lines open Mon-Fri 9am-8pm, Sat 9am-1pm EST) Please quote code 41H for the gift

● SAVE MONEY ● ENJOY DELIVERY DIRECT TO YOUR DOOR
● DON'T PAY MORE FOR PREMIUM ISSUES

SUBSCRIBERS IN OVER 120 COUNTRIES

UNITED KINGDOM

6-monthly Direct Debit (UK only)
Pay £15.08, saving 20% off the full price of £18.85
1-year subscription
Pay £32.04, saving 15% off the full price of £37.70
2-year subscription
Pay £60.32, saving 20% off the full price of £75.40

SAVE UP TO 25%

EUROPE

1-year subscription
Pay €62.40, saving 20% off the full price of €78.00
2-year subscription
Pay €117.00, saving 25% off the full price of €156.00

REST OF THE WORLD

1-year subscription
Pay £50.64, saving 20% off the full price of £63.30
2-year subscription
Pay £94.95, saving 25% off the full price of £126.60

PLUS

RECEIVE A FREE MITRE FOOTBALL WORTH £14.99

THE DIRECT DEBIT GUARANTEE

This Guarantee is offered by all Banks and Building Societies that take part in the Direct Debit Scheme. The efficiency and security of the Scheme is monitored and protected by your own Bank or Building Society. If the amounts to be paid or the payment dates change IPC Media Ltd will notify you at least 10 days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed. If an error is made by IPC Media Ltd or your Bank or Building Society, you are guaranteed a full and immediate refund from your branch of the amount paid. You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by writing to your Bank or Building Society. Please also send a copy of the letter to us. Direct Debits can ONLY be paid through a Bank or Building Society.

or order online @
www.worldsoccer.com
(Gift is not available online)

SEND YOUR ORDER TO:

UK
World Soccer Subscriptions, FREEPOST CY1061, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 3ZA (no stamp required)
OVERSEAS
World Soccer Subscriptions, PO Box 272, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, UK, RH16 3FS
(please attach correct postage)
USA
World Soccer Subscriptions,
C/O Mercury International, 365 Blair Road, Avenel, NJ 07001
(please attach correct postage)

YES! I WOULD LIKE TO SUBSCRIBE TO WORLD SOCCER FOR:

☐ 6 months by Direct Debit and pay only £15.08, saving 20% off the full price of £18.85 (UK only)
☐ 2 years (26 issues), saving up to 25% off the full price
☐ 1 year (13 issues), saving up to 20% off the full price

GIFT CODE: 41H

MY DETAILS:

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms: Forename:
Surname:
Address:
Postcode/Zip code:
Country/State:
Home Tel. No.: (Include country/area code)
Email:
Date of Birth: D D M M Y Y Y Y

PAYMENT DETAILS:

I enclose cheque/international money order for £/$/€_____
made payable to IPC Media Ltd

Or please debit my: ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ Amex ☐ Switch (UK only)

Switch only

Expiry Date: / / / SWITCH CARD ISSUE No.

Signature:
(I am over 18)

For office use only. Originator's reference - 764 221 A/C No.

DIRECT Debit

Address of Bank:
Postcode:
Account Name:
Sort Code:
Account No.:

Please pay IPC Media Ltd Direct Debits from the account detailed on this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with IPC Media Ltd and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank or Building Society.

Signature: Date:
(I am over 18)

IPC Media Limited, publisher of World Soccer, will collect your personal information to process your subscription and to gain a better understanding of our magazine readership. We may send you details on magazines and services. Please tick here if you prefer not to hear from IPC ☐. We may pass your details to other reputable companies whose products and services may be of interest to you. Please tick here if you prefer not to receive such offers ☐.

Keir Radnedge **COMMENTARY**

Take the hint!

Federations must realise football is not above the law

FOR THE PAST eight years, ever since Bosman in fact, the international federations have been trying to persuade the European Union to add a waiver to the Treaty of Rome which would exempt football from much of the legal framework that defines daily life.

The reasoning is portrayed as mere logic when expounded by a Gerd Aigner or Sepp Blatter. It's all about maintaining a status quo threatened by lawyers and footballers who can think beyond the mere confines of the pitch.

Personally, I think it resembles nothing more than King Canute trying to hold back the tide. It's illogical in the extreme to want the full power of the law to tie up multi-million sponsorship and television deals but deny similar rights to the people whose efforts generate that money. Either way, something needs to be done on a pan-European basis about the balance between sport and the law because events in Italy are bringing the game to its knees and making both the game and the law look an ass.

This is not about the likes of Juventus and Milan and thus does not make for instant headlines elsewhere. But the resonance is profound and goes to the heart of the dispute over the balance between sport and society.

Catania's legal battle to stay in Serie B (see page 16) and Aquila in Serie C have involved local regional courts ruling against the administrative will of the Italian football federation, which relegated the clubs on contentious grounds over player eligibility.

Trying to make sense of it all...Italian federation president Franco Carraro

Carraro in the middle

In the middle of this mess is federation president Franco Carraro, who has enough enemies and critics already without being batted around between, on the one side, the Italian government and the all-powerful Italian Olympic Committee and, on the other, the regional courts.

The federation is standing up for its right to be master of its own house, while the courts are growing ever more strident in their insistence on the rule of law.

Ironically, all this is being fought out while, simultaneously, Italian security officials are proposing that Italian anti-hooligan controls should be adopted across the length and breadth of the European Union (a Pauline conversion, indeed, but welcome, no matter how late in the day).

Any sort of compromise will at least allow the Italian championship to launch into its new season. But that can only be short term.

UEFA and FIFA and the EU and EC should put their alphabet-soup heads together and reach a compromise of their own as they have with the transfer system and central marketing. Posturing at the extremes of the Treaty of Rome makes no sense – least of all in Rome.

New pioneers...Villa and Ardiles flank the then Tottenham manager Keith Burkinshaw

History lessons for foreign bodies

Broadcasting has redefined the apparent world in which we live, and football has not escaped.

The game's history falls into four eras. The first was the pioneering age up until 1928, when regular radio broadcasting of matches began in Italy. That era lasted until 1954, when formal television coverage of the international game began at the World Cup finals in Switzerland. That third era was prolonged until 1970, when we had the first colour-TV World Cup – immortalising the genius of Pele, Jairzinho, Tostao and co as they wove their exploding patterns in the Mexico heat.

Judging from the vast majority of football retro on the airwaves, the game is little more than a quarter of a century old. If you take it one step closer, and think internet, then the plethora of polls suggests the game is only a decade old. It's almost as if it's suffering from collective amnesia.

I was struck by this when reading *England, Their England* (Pitch, £18.99), a wondrously researched tome by Nick Harris of *The Independent* charting the history of foreign footballers in the English game.

Present-day appreciation of imports runs back, generally, only as far as July 1978 when Tottenham signed Argentinian World Cup winners Osvaldo Ardiles and Ricardo Villa (soon to become Ossie and Ricky).

Their arrival drove a coach and horses through xenophobic barriers more psychological than legal. No one would have dreamed, even back in 1978, that one day even the likes of Walsall would line up a mixture of talent from Brazil, Portugal, Spain, Germany and Australia.

In fact, foreigners were playing in English football before World War I – though the most outstanding, Danish centre-half Nils Middleboe, did so as an amateur at Chelsea. In 1930 Arsenal manager Herbert Chapman, always ahead of his time, tried to sign Rudi Hiden, goalkeeper of the Austrian 'Wunderteam', only to be frustrated by work permit problems.

After World War II Bert Trautmann at Manchester City and the far less lauded Alec Eisentrager at Bristol City were former prisoners of war who stayed and played. They met their share of discrimination, as did the first black players – and to a far sharper degree than their successors.

Grazioli, the world-beater

Has there been a better transfer deal anywhere in the world this summer than the money-printing switch made by David Beckham to Real Madrid?

Indeed, it appears so – and not attained by the likes of Chelsea or Barcelona or Juventus, but by Barnet of North London. The Conference side have acquired striker Giuliano Grazioli in a £110,000 deal which involved last season's top scorer, Junior Agogo, moving to Third Division Bristol Rovers.

"Grazioli has always been No 1 on my target list of strikers," said Barnet boss Martin Allen. "In its way, getting him now is a better deal than Beckham going to Madrid."

Just watch how those Grazioli shirts sell in Tokyo and Beijing...

TV boom is not over

So *Match of the Day* will be resurrected yet again by the BBC next season after the conclusion of negotiations for the latest English television round. The Beeb will have highlights rights for £105 million, while Sky believes it has sidestepped European Commission anti-competition rules by buying all the other varied packages on offer for £1.064bn. ITV will scale down, if that's the right phrase, to the 'mere' Champions League – and even that it now has to share with Sky. The BBC is paying £78m less than ITV for the present highlights package, which, I suppose, demonstrates a fall in value. But not by the amounts predicted by the pessimists and, more interestingly, not by the amounts needed for the Premier League to send north of the border for Old Firm reinforcements. No wonder Celtic boss Dermot Desmond was so upset.

Premier League shut-out...Celtic and Rangers

Bigger than Beckham

Simon Banks on a survey that confirms Ronaldo's greater popularity in the Far East

Most appealing...Ronaldo beats Becks

ONE myth that was constantly repeated during the recent David-Beckham-to-Real-Madrid saga is that he is the biggest player in the Far East and would help Real "break into the lucrative Far Eastern market". Research by German sports marketing company Sportundmarkt reveals that Ronaldo is actually more popular in that region. The company surveyed 3,000 people in China, Japan and South Korea and found that 60 per cent rated Ronaldo higher than Beckham in terms of appeal.

What is perhaps even more surprising are the findings of the survey regarding clubs and leagues. Serie A proved to be the most popular league overall, possibly due to the presence of Hidetoshi Nakata and Shunsuke Nakamura. However, the Premier League was most popular in China, where it attracts TV audiences of over 300 million.

The claim that Manchester United are the biggest club in the world is also undermined by the fact that Real Madrid were ahead of United in all three countries in the survey. United were the second most popular in China but only fourth in Japan, behind Nakata's club Parma, Milan and Real.

"The Far East has been identified as one of the main areas for commercial exploitation by the football industry," says Sportundmarkt's Oliver Butler. "This research will dispel a few myths about the appeal of certain competitions, clubs and players in these markets. Nobody has yet to make serious inroads in converting these markets into a regular source of revenue."

There are doubts as to just how lucrative the Far East will be to European clubs. While football fans are happy to watch on free TV, they may not be prepared to pay Western prices for official merchandise. Clearly, clubs must understand the nature of the market, instead of relying on media hype. This latest research may help make the decision-making a simpler process.

Buy online @ www.soccerondvd.com

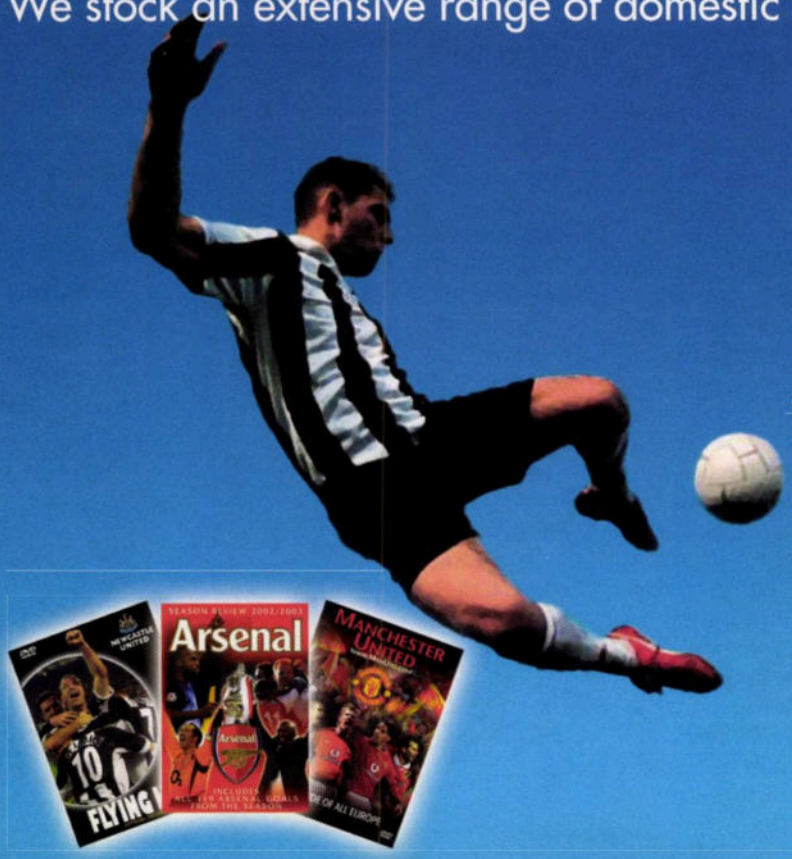
We stock an extensive range of domestic and international soccer DVD's

Tel: 0870 088 7031

24 hours a day 7 days a week

All major credit and debit cards accepted

- END OF SEASON REVIEWS
- PLAYER PROFILES
- INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL
- DOMESTIC COMPETITIONS



SOCCER on DVD

The New Season in Europe

TEAM PREVIEWS, PLAYERS TO WATCH, SQUAD LISTS

Warm-up...Partizan Belgrade's Igor Duljaj during a friendly against Grasshopper

Austria 44
Belgium 45
England 46
France 54
Germany 60
Greece 66
Holland 67
Italy 68
Portugal 76
Scotland 77
Spain 78
Switzerland 86
Turkey 87
Champions League 88

Daum but not out

The champions have lost their coach but are still serious contenders. Harry Miltner reports

Staying on?...Rapid's Roman Wallner

AUSTRIA WIEN

The defending champions had only one aim for the new season, to reach the group stage of the Champions League. Billionaire president Frank Stronach had to let star coach Christoph Daum move to Turkey, but fellow German Joachim Low, who led FC Tirol to the Austrian title two years ago, has filled the spot. Low has brought a load of stars to Vienna, including former Germany striker Sean Dundee, ex-Ajax skipper Frank Verlaat and national team midfielder Ivica Vastic.

Thanks to a great strike from captain Michael Wagner, Austria won their first title of 2003-04 when they defeated Karnten 2-1 in the Austrian Supercup. However, Stronach will punish anything but success, and should Low not win any more trophies, he might lose his job quicker than expected.

Austria should ease to a second successive domestic title, but should they make it to the group stage of the Champions League, the players will have to show more stamina.

HOW THEY LINE UP

Mandl – Dospel, Afolabi, Verlaat, Ratajczyk – Vastic, Flogel, M Wagner, Janocko – Gilewicz, Rushfeldt.

GRAZER AK

Head coach Walter Schachner led the club from bottom to second last season and believes he has the means to challenge Austria Wien. Although the Graz team lost skilled midfielder Boban Dmitrovic to arch-rivals Sturm Graz, Schachner is expecting 20-year-old Macedonia striker Ilco Naumoski and midfielder Mario Bazina to break through. Naumoski, discovered by Schachner in a friendly against lower league side Klingenbach, joined Graz in the second half of last season and scored five times in 12 games.

Schachner's preference for a compact style and solid team work ahead of individual brilliance matches perfectly with the squad. Graz are easily good enough to repeat last season's showing.

HOW THEY LINE UP

Schranz – Potscher, Ehmann, Tokic, Pogatetz – Ramusch, Milinkovic, Bazina, Aufhauser – Akwuegbu, Kollmann.

AND THE REST...

Record champions **RAPID WIEN** are continuing to build up a team of talents. Star striker Roman Wallner could be talked into spending another season in Vienna, Andreas Ivanschitz will finally be given the chance to be playmaker after Andreas Herzog left the club, and other youngsters like Roman Kienast have already proven their skill for Austria's Under-21s.

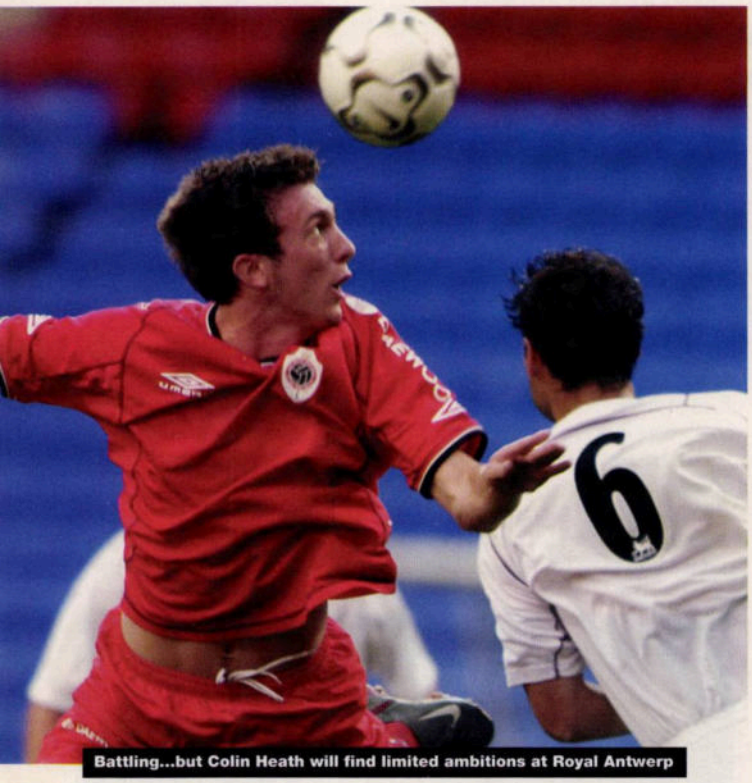
An Arab sheikh who had promised to invest millions in **SALZBURG** was found to be a fraud. Nevertheless, head coach Lars Sondergaard is still convinced his side, who finished third last term, can go at least one notch higher.

PASCHING finished comfortably in mid-table last season having just won promotion and are looking to build on that relative success. With ex-Austria sweeper Michael Baur now on board, the club are aiming at a UEFA Cup place via the InterToto Cup. However, the tiny club's continuing presence in Europe coupled with domestic league commitments might be too much for them.

Following **STURM GRAZ'S** disastrous season last term, when they failed to qualify for Europe, president Hannes Kartnig changed the team management and several players. New coach Gilbert Gress was happy to be presented with former Austrian top scorer Ronald Brunmayr, wing-back Boban Dmitrovic and Belgian Fillip De Wilde, while French sweeper Franck Silvestre arrived from Bastia to strengthen a weak defence. But Hungarian top striker Imre Szabics has moved to Stuttgart.

A Brazil-born Bosnian is the new star attraction at **KARNTEN**. Junior joined from German side Nurnberg and his skills made him a firm crowd favourite in pre-season friendlies.

Gathering Sturm...Gilbert Gress



Battling...but Colin Heath will find limited ambitions at Royal Antwerp

Closing the gap

A revived Anderlecht will push Club Brugge to the wire. Nicholas Harling reports

CLUB BRUGGE

After their gallant attempts last season, most notably against Galatasaray, the Belgian champions faced a ludicrously tough draw in their Champions League qualifier. Their task against Borussia Dortmund was not impossible but the most likely outcome was an early exit for Trond Sollied's team, who will then have to respond to the question about how they will recover from such a blow.

Assuming they go out of Europe early, the onus will be on Brugge to make their usual flying start in the League. Brugge will certainly not be able to enjoy anything like last season's stroll to the title. Sollied has slightly strengthened his squad, buying Serb midfielder Ivan Gvozdenovic (Red Star Belgrade), Czech central defender David Rozenahl (Sigma Olomouc) and Croatian keeper Tomislav Butina (Dinamo Zagreb).

HOW THEY LINE UP
Verlinden – De Cock, Clement, Rozenahl, Van der Heyden – Verheyen, Simons, Stoica, Ceh – Mendoza, Martens.

ANDERLECHT

Anderlecht staged a barnstorming performance in their Champions League second round qualifier against Rapid Bucharest, who having drawn the first leg 1-1, went 2-0 up in Brussels. "Now I know there really is life after death," said coach Hugo Broos after seeing goals from Serb Nenad Jestrovic, returning Swede Par Zetterberg and South Korean Seol Ki-hyeun give Anderlecht a 3-2 win.

If Anderlecht play as they did in the first half, they will not dispute the domestic honours with Club Brugge. But if they can maintain their post-interval form against the Romanians then the title is a distinct possibility.

HOW THEY LINE UP
Zitka – Doll, De Boeck, Tihinen, Deschacht – Hasi, Zetterberg, Baseggio, Seol – Dindane, Jestrovic.

AND THE REST...

With their many Ivorians, **BEVEREN** should keep their heads above water and maybe repeat their upsets in home games over the likes of Lierse and Anderlecht.

It took **CERCLE BRUGGE** seven years to regain their place among the elite, but can they stay up? The Second Division champions have bought well – Harold Meyseen (Standard), Djordje Svetlicic (Germinal) and Andrew Vlahos (Football Kingz, New Zealand) – but a relegation fight is the likely scenario.

CHARLEROI stayed up last season thanks mainly to Mechelen and Lommel's financial crises. The Zebras could be the ones to be demoted this time unless they are extremely frugal. Goalgetter Eduardo has moved to Toulouse but Togolese Adekamni Olufade (ex-Lokeren, Lille and Nice) looks a worthy replacement.

With no European commitments, **GENK** will be less distracted than last season when the Champions League took its toll. Wesley Sonck, Beli Dagano and Josip Skoko have all left but Kpaka and Cedric Roussel are worthy replacements. Top four is possible.

GENT look stronger in depth but have lost a key player in Alexandros Kaklamanos (Standard). Nonetheless, a top-six finish is the aim.

GERMINAL BEERSCHOT have lost top scorer Paul Kpaka and outstanding defender Aaron Mokoena to Genk. They are also gambling with new coach Marc Brijs, who has had success with Berchem Sport in the lower divisions but has never operated at the top.

HEUSDEN-ZOLDER, making their top-flight debut, will shake off the mantle of relegation favourites only if Japanese newcomer Takayuki Suzuki comes good.

After achieving their greatest honour with a Belgian Cup triumph, **LA LOUVIERE** venture into Europe, but coach Ariel Jacobs will be careful not to lose his head. With last season's spirit, they should stay out of trouble.

LIERSE should build under Emilio Ferrera and finish in the top five again. But much depends on whether they can keep strikers Stein Huysegems and Arouna Kone.

Another third-place finish will probably be beyond **LOKEREN**, but with their influx of Africans they should not fare much worse.

The departure of Cedric Roussel to Genk leaves **MONS** facing a hard second season in the top flight.

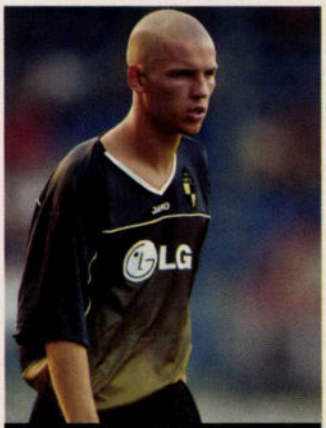
MOUSCRON'S form over the second part of last season dipped alarmingly; returning coach Georges Leekens' first task will be to instigate a recovery.

ROYAL ANTWERP have a new coach, Rene Desaeyere, and players from 'parent' club Manchester United (David Fox and Colin Heath), but the squad hasn't changed much. Their main target will probably be a League double over neighbours Germinal.

ST TRUIDEN must recover not only from their Cup Final defeat by La Louviere but also their early exit from the InterToto Cup. They will find it hard to match last season's exploits.

STANDARD LIEGE, the great under-achievers, must improve. Top scorer Ole-Martin Arst has gone, but anything below fifth place will be a disappointment.

WESTERLO'S strong finish last season gives them hope of keeping the impetus under Jan Ceulemans. They should manage a comfortable campaign in mid-table.



Prized...Lierse's Stein Huysegems

Changing places

Chelsea's Russian revolution threatens the traditional order, says Gavin Hamilton

ARSENAL

It's been a frustrating summer at Highbury. Transfer spending has been constrained by the club's commitment to building a new stadium at nearby Ashburton Grove. Add to that difficulties in persuading Patrick Vieira to sign a new contract, Chelsea's apparent bids for Vieira and Thierry Henry, and manager Arsene Wenger's meeting with Real Madrid officials ("I have lots of meetings").

The signing of German goalkeeper Jens Lehmann concluded a long search for a replacement for David Seaman, who left for Manchester City after Wenger could not guarantee him first-team football. Arsenal had been linked to bids for almost every promising and available keeper in Europe and South America.

Lehmann, whose career highlights include being the hero of Schalke's 1997 UEFA Cup Final win over Internazionale, is a strong personality. But his capture does not conceal serious gaps in Arsenal's defence. Nor is there great strength in depth in attack. And for all their impressive football at domestic level, Arsenal have yet to convince in the Champions League.

Dennis Bergkamp has agreed to stay for another season, albeit on a reduced salary, but he remains injury prone and unlikely to travel to far-flung European destinations.

In defence, Wenger continues to excuse the poor performances of Pascal Cygan, but may now be forced to blood Swiss teenager Philippe Senderos earlier than expected.

In fact, the many promising youngsters at Highbury could be the main beneficiaries of the lack of signings. "We have lots of good young players and I am pleased with their attitude," Wenger said. "I wanted to integrate some of these players into the squad anyway."

Players such as Senderos, Jermaine Pennant, Ryan Garry, Jeremie Aliadiere and Sebastian Svard may now get their chance having had limited first-team opportunities so far.

The spectre of Ashburton Grove will loom large over Arsenal's season. Wenger has linked his future to the project and insists he will see out his contract, which runs until 2006. But the interest from Real Madrid will not go away.

HOW THEY LINE UP

Lehmann – Lauren, Campbell, Keown, Cole – Ljungberg, Vieira, Gilberto Silva, Pires – Bergkamp, Henry.

In contrast to previous years, when defence was Arsenal's greatest strength, their trump card now is attacking verve, with Henry and Bergkamp augmented by Pires and Ljungberg.

ASTON VILLA

Takeover talk is in the air at Villa Park, with reports that a Venezuelan billionaire is keen on buying chairman Doug Ellis's holding as pressure mounts on Ellis to finally bow out.

The valuation of Villa in the region of £25million reflects the fact that football in general has lost its lustre as far as the City is concerned. But Villa remain a club with enormous potential and which could benefit from outside investment.

For the time being, new manager David O'Leary has had to make do with limited transfer funds. He was rebuffed in his attempts to sign a new goalkeeper after Paul Robinson opted to stay at Leeds even though the clubs had agreed a fee. But midfielder Gavin McCann (Sunderland, £2.25m) has joined.

BIRMINGHAM

Steve Bruce has proved more adventurous as a manager than he was as a player. Last season, his gamble on Christophe Dugarry paid off, as promoted Birmingham consolidated their top-flight position.

This summer, Bruce has gone for Luciano Figueroa, top scorer in the Argentinian closing championship, thanks largely to five final-day goals against a third-string Boca Juniors side.

A safer bet appears to be midfielder David Dunn, who fell out with Graeme Souness at Blackburn but who has been given a chance to revive his reputation, albeit at the hefty price tag of £5.5m.

With Dugarry staying on for another season, Birmingham should be safe bets to avoid relegation. The

Dunn deal...David has joined Birmingham

Head boy...Charlton buy Matt Holland

sting in the tail is that more success could prompt ambitious Bruce, who has already walked out on Sheffield United, Wigan and Crystal Palace in a short managerial career, to go wandering again.

BLACKBURN

Busy times at Ewood Park, with the double DD departure of David Dunn (sold to Birmingham with manager Graeme Souness's consent) and Damien Duff (after his £17m release clause was paid by Chelsea).

Blackburn excelled last season, finishing sixth to claim a UEFA Cup spot. New signings Brett Emerton (Feyenoord, £2.5m), Lorenzo Amoruso (Rangers, free) and Steven Reid (Millwall, £1.4m) suggest more of the same is possible this term. However, early rumblings of dressing-room discontent over Souness's managerial style will have to be nipped in the bud.

BOLTON

Manager Sam Allardyce has been criticised for his mercenary approach to the transfer market. But while his hiring of foreign players on short-term contracts and loan deals may not help the development of young local talent, it is undeniably effective. Once again Bolton survived in the top flight last season, though admittedly it was by the skin of their teeth again.

This summer, the manager has continued his cut-price foreigner policy. Ivan Campo has joined permanently from Real Madrid (free transfer, naturally), French defender Florent Laville arrived from Lens for £500,000, and Greek international Stelios Giannakopoulos (profiled in *World Soccer*, June 2003) was another free transfer.

CHARLTON

Quietly but confidently, Charlton are consolidating their position. The £750,000 capture of Matt Holland was a great piece of business, signing a player who showed strong loyalty to relegated Ipswich, but is a proven Premiership operator. Promising young midfielder Julian Gray was close to signing on a free transfer from Crystal Palace, but the best deal was the new five-year contract for midfielder Scott Parker, who was outstanding last season. Charlton should, injuries permitting, be good enough to avoid the relegation battle.

CHELSEA

Another quiet summer at Stamford Bridge, then! Russian oil billionaire Roman Abramovich's purchase of the club from Ken Bates precipitated a mad scramble to sign players (and a coach) from across Europe and pushed transfer fees and wages back up, just as the market was returning to reality. In a separate development, the Financial Services Authority launched an investigation into Chelsea's complicated share ownership structure before Bates sold out to Abramovich.

In the long term, the arrival of the Russian, whose personal fortune is estimated to be in the region of £5billion, may come to be seen as a turning point in football's relationship with big business. According to insiders, Chelsea Village, the property empire built by Bates on the back of the football club, was two weeks away from going into administration. In purchasing the club for around £60m and clearing debts estimated at £80m, Abramovich made Bates a very rich man, but he also shattered the myth that it is possible to run football as a profitable business. With Chelsea Village, Bates encouraged shareholders to believe that big profits could be made from the game.

Roman soldier...Damien Duff (right) is part of the new-look Chelsea

In the future, investors are unlikely to believe the hype.

By early August, the signings of Geremi, Glen Johnson, Wayne Bridge, Damien Duff, Joe Cole and Juan Veron (£60m and rising) represented the start of a brave new world at Stamford Bridge, not to mention a whole new team. On paper, the new arrivals should strengthen the side and provide a welcome challenge to the dominance of Manchester United and Arsenal. But things have never been that simple at Chelsea. Frank Lampard and Jesper Gronkjaer, both first-team regulars last season, expressed their concern that the new Abramovich-inspired signings have disrupted the balance of the squad.

Claudio Ranieri is the bookies' favourite to be the first managerial casualty of the season. The Italian, who still has most of a five-year contract to run, arrived at Chelsea with a reputation for promoting youth and cutting big-ego players down to size. He now has England manager Sven Goran Eriksson waiting in the wings to succeed him and a club owner keen to play a part in player purchases and team selection.

Already, Gianfranco Zola and Graeme Le Saux have headed for the exit; others are bound to follow as the Chelsea revolution continues.

HOW THEY LINE UP

Cudicini – Gallas, Terry, Desailly, Bridge – Lampard, Veron, Cole, Duff – Hasselbaink, Gudjohnsen.

Only Man United had a tighter defence than Chelsea last season. Ranieri's challenge is to use the new signings to add more attacking verve without upsetting the defensive strength of his favoured 4-4-2 formation.

EVERTON

Big things are expected of David Moyes this season after last year's impressive performance ended with the club narrowly missing out on a European place. But Everton's highly-rated young manager faces a number of obstacles. Financially, the club still cannot compete with their wealthier counterparts – Fulham's £5m valuation of Sean Davis ended the Toffees' interest in the midfielder – while the rapidity of Wayne Rooney's rise will continue to present problems.

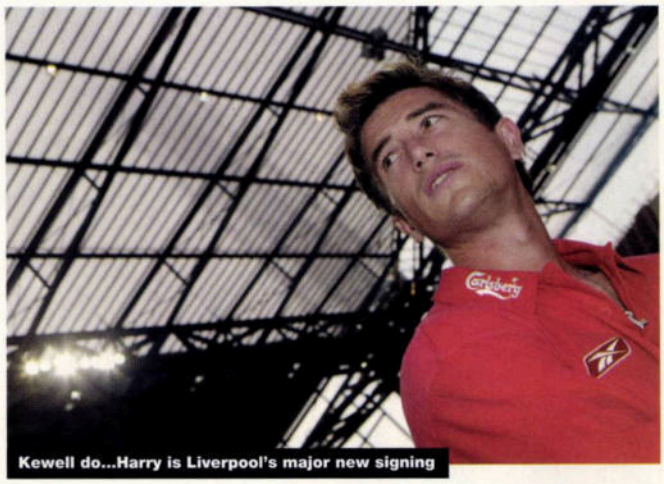
If England qualify for Euro 2004, Moyes is bound to come into conflict with Sven Goran Eriksson again over the deployment of Rooney in England's friendly matches. Last season ended with Moyes pulling Rooney out of England's trip to South Africa; this season's build-up was marred by an ankle injury to the 17-year-old.

On the transfer front, Joseph Yobo, the Nigerian defender who so impressed while on loan from Marseille last season, has joined permanently in a £3.5m deal.

FULHAM

A tricky season lies ahead for Fulham, where Chris Coleman, the League's youngest manager, has prepared for the campaign with little financial assistance from owner Mohamed Al-Fayed, now a tax exile in Switzerland.

Al-Fayed has pumped millions into the club in recent years, but his enthusiasm appears to be waning, especially as Fulham are no nearer to finding a permanent home. Another season at QPR's Loftus Road ground beckons, but they could yet return to Craven Cottage. Irish international right-back Steve Finnan joined Liverpool in the close season, while doubts remain over the future of many of the French contingent signed by former manager Jean Tigana.



Kewell do...Harry is Liverpool's major new signing

LEEDS

The fire sale continues. Harry Kewell, after stalling for months on a new contract, joined the Elland Road exodus in the summer, moving to Liverpool and leaving Leeds chairman Professor John McKenzie fuming over the £3m the club received (agent Bernie Mandic allegedly made £2m from the deal).

Leeds appear no nearer to clearing their debts, and manager Peter Reid has been forced to do his transfer deals on the cheap – Zoumana Camara (Lens) and Jody Morris (Chelsea) were a loan and a free transfer respectively. Reid was sacked by relegation-bound Sunderland last season. Leeds fans will fear a repeat performance.

LEICESTER

The new boys have been among the busiest in the transfer market, picking up a host of players on frees. Some, like Les Ferdinand (West Ham), Craig Hignett (Blackburn) and Steve Howey (Man City), are experienced campaigners. Others, such as Lilian Nalis (Chievo) and Nicolas Priet (Lens), are unknown quantities, while the likes of Ben Thatcher (Tottenham) and Keith Gillespie (Blackburn) have reputations to rebuild.

Micky Adams is one of the brightest managerial prospects in English football and was unlucky to be cast aside by Fulham at the start of the Al-Fayed revolution. However, although his team have a year-old stadium and are backed by a new consortium with the funds to get City out of administration, they are the bookies' favourites to be relegated.

LIVERPOOL

Cut-price Harry Kewell (£5m, Leeds) was the main capture of the summer; the Australian could bring a much-needed dose of imagination to a Liverpool attack that was criticised for being over-reliant on Michael Owen last season.

Right-back Steve Finnan, one of the League's most consistent performers in recent years, is a useful addition to the squad, while the young French pair of Anthony Le Tallec and Florent Sinama-Pongolle, who have been 'parked' at Le Havre for the past year, will provide further competition in attack. At the back, manager Gerard Houllier needs more consistency.

A return to the UEFA Cup may not be the most financially appealing option for the Liverpool board, but with the lion's share of attention focused on Arsenal, Chelsea and Manchester United, Liverpool could be the season's dark horses.

Unknown quantity...Leicester acquisition Lilian Nalis

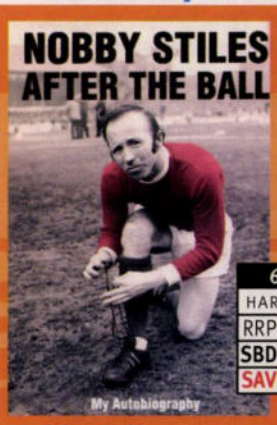
FREE delivery in the UK

sportsbooks direct
we share your passion

www.sportsbooksdirect.co.uk delivery is free in the uk

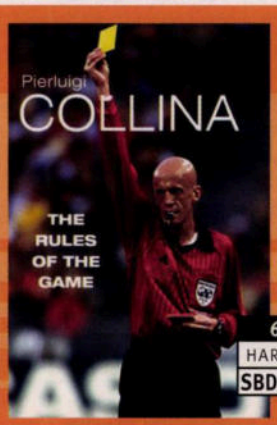
6697 HARDBACK RRP £17.99 SBD £15.99 SAVE £2.00

George Best
Scoring at Half Time
A collection of the stories, tales and humour that Bestie is renowned for



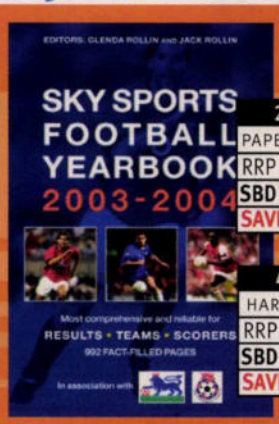
6707 HARDBACK RRP £18.99 SBD £15.99 SAVE £3.00

Nobby Stiles
After the Ball
The remarkable autobiography of one of England's most charismatic of players



6694 HARDBACK SBD £12.99

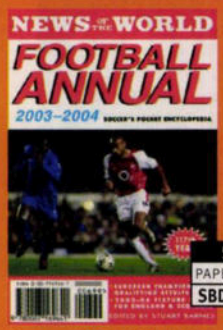
Pierluigi Collina
The Rules of the Game
A genuine inside story of football ... a journey into the world of the referee



222 PAPERBACK RRP £19.99 SBD £15.99 SAVE £4.00

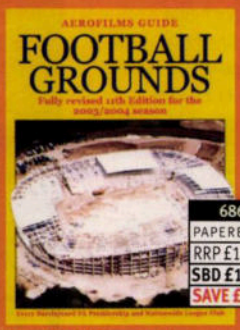
401 HARDBACK RRP £30.00 SBD £23.00 SAVE £7.00

The Football Yearbook
2003 – 2004 (formerly 'Rothmans')
There may be a new name on the cover but it's still football's most essential guide



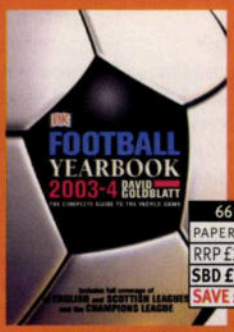
501 PAPERBACK SBD £6.99

News of the World
Football Annual 2003 – 2004
The bumper pocket encyclopedia of football facts, records and fixtures



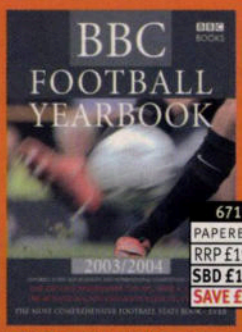
686 PAPERBACK RRP £15.99 SBD £13.99 SAVE £2.00

Football Grounds
Aerofilms Guide
The 11th edition has been completely updated for the new season



6611 PAPERBACK RRP £20.00 SBD £18.00 SAVE £2.00

World Football Yearbook
2003 – 2004
The game world-wide brought to life with facts, stats, graphs, charts and diagrams

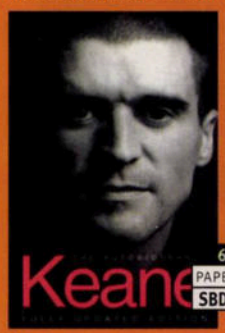


6717 PAPERBACK RRP £19.99 SBD £16.99 SAVE £3.00

BBC Football Yearbook
Results and facts on the domestic leagues, Serie A, La Liga and the Bundesliga – plus info on France, Holland and Portugal

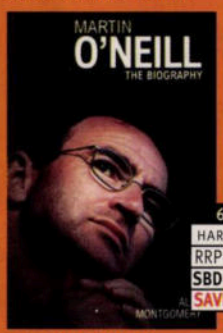
460 PAPERBACK RRP £16.99 SBD £14.99 SAVE £2.00

Footballer's Who's Who
2003 – 2004 (formerly 'PFA Factfile')
A comprehensive guide to all players in the Premier and Nationwide Divisions



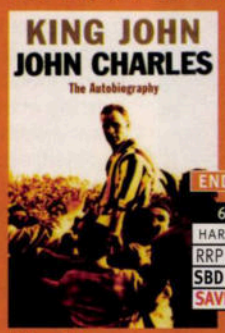
6502 PAPERBACK SBD £7.99

Keane
The Autobiography
Now in paperback, revised and expanded with a new chapter



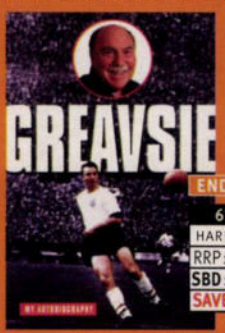
6690 HARDBACK RRP £18.99 SBD £15.99 SAVE £3.00

Martin O'Neill
The Biography
Gets to grips with one of the most fascinating individuals in the game



6679 HARDBACK RRP £18.99 SBD £15.99 SAVE £3.00

King John
John Charles: The Autobiography
Unlike the biographies gone before, this is his own story, in his own words



6705 HARDBACK RRP £18.99 SBD £16.99 SAVE £2.00

Greavsie: My Autobiography
Candid, humorous and sharp – and full of brilliant stories – the story of one of the greatest players to grace the game

6703 HARDBACK SBD £6.99

Footballers' Haircuts
Cris Freddi on a century of amazing football hairstyles, from awesome Afros to the magnificent mullet

to order post the form below tel 020 7739 7173 fax 020 7729 2305
email orders@sportsbooksdirect.co.uk web www.sportsbooksdirect.co.uk

1 Fill in this form, copy it, or write out the details on a separate piece of paper and send to:
Sports Books Direct, FREEPOST LON 6708, LONDON, EC2B 2AN
(no stamp required in UK)

Please enter the code number(s) of your choice(s):

2 I enclose my cheque for £..... payable to Sports Books Direct
OR Please debit my Visa/Mastercard/Amex/Switch (Include Issue No. for Switch)

Expiry date ☐☐ ☐☐ Issue No. (Switch) ☐☐

3 Name .....
Address .....
.....
..... Postcode.....

Email Address (to confirm despatch of your order) .....
POSTAGE AND PACKING IS **FREE** IN THE UK.
Airmail Europe: £2.50 paperback; £3 hardback. **Airmail Rest of World:** £4 paperback, £6 hardback
Special Rates: 401, 6611, 6717 – Airmail Europe: £6; **Airmail Rest of World:** £10
Special Rates: 222 – Airmail Europe: £3; **Airmail Rest of World:** £6

WSocSEPT03

MAN CITY

A new era begins with the move to the new City of Manchester stadium, built for the 2002 Commonwealth Games. "Don't under-estimate the power of the stadium in attracting players to the club," was manager Kevin Keegan's assessment when he unveiled new signing Paul Bosvelt from Feyenoord. Bosvelt followed the additions of Trevor Sinclair (West Ham), David Seaman (Arsenal) and Michael Tarnat (Bayern Munich), though there have been significant departures, notably Peter Schmeichel (retired), Niclas Jensen (Dortmund) and Ali Benarbia, who announced his retirement then promptly signed a lucrative contract to play in Qatar.

City have 'retired' the No 23 shirt worn by the late Marc-Vivien Foe last season. Foe had been due to return to Lyon, but it remains to be seen what effect his tragic death during Cameroon's Confederations Cup semi-final with Colombia will have on the City squad.

City will compete in the UEFA Cup, thanks to their Fair Play rating, but the priority will again be to consolidate their place in the top half of the division. After years of uncertainty, the search for stability goes on.

MAN UNITED

United set off on their lucrative American tour well aware that their position as the foremost force in the UK transfer market has been usurped by the millions injected into Chelsea by Roman Abramovich.

David Beckham's sale to Real Madrid went through in June, leaving manager Alex Ferguson with ample time to sign a big-name replacement. But the search proved difficult. He put a brave face on the failure to sign Ronaldinho, his number one target, from Paris Saint-Germain; United also failed with a late bid for Harry Kewell; and another admired player, Damien Duff, went to Chelsea.

Changes are inevitable in midfield after the sale of Beckham and Juan Veron. The newcomers are Cameroon's Eric Djemba Djemba (Nantes, £3.5m) and Brazilian Kleberson (Atletico Paranaense). Furthermore, Roy Keane has already dropped substantial hints that this campaign could be his last.

Tactically, Ferguson may opt to shield his captain with a second defensive midfielder, and play three attacking midfielders behind a lone striker, Ruud Van Nistelrooy. Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, who was preferred by Ferguson for many of last season's big games, is the likely replacement for Beckham. Ferguson's major tactical conundrum is finding a formation that can cope with the different styles of play in English football and the Champions League. It is a puzzle that has stumped United in the latter stages of the Champions League in recent seasons.

The attack has been bolstered by the free transfer from Sunderland of Frenchman David Bellion, who was injured for much of last season. But United are still only a Van Nistelrooy injury away from being a team that struggles to score.

In goal, American Tim Howard could displace Fabien Barthez as number one, but in front of him the defence looks a little on the light side, especially with the unlucky Wes Brown injured again.

Nevertheless, United remain firm favourites to retain the title they won with such a determined run of form in the second half of last season.

Sky Blue velvet...Paul Bosvelt strokes the ball around for Man City

HOW THEY LINE UP

Barthez/Howard – G Neville, Ferdinand, O'Shea, Silvestre – Keane, Djemba Djemba/Kleberson – Solskjaer, Scholes, Giggs – Van Nistelrooy.

A 4-2-3-1 formation with two defensive midfielders and a wingless attack would be a new approach in European games.

MIDDLESBROUGH

Steve McClaren has made steady progress in two seasons at the Riverside stadium, but last year's 11th-place finish was disappointing after a bright start had made Boro top-six contenders.

Chairman Steve Gibson continues to back the club with his own funds and will be looking for an improvement this year.

McClaren insists that a lot of his changes have gone unnoticed and have been designed to stabilise the club after the Bryan Robson years. The average age of the squad is now nearer 20 than 30, but Middlesbrough continue to struggle to attract big names: Flavio Conceicao was the latest to say no, favouring a loan move from Real Madrid to Borussia Dortmund instead.

Under scrutiny...Lee Bowyer

NEWCASTLE

For Sir Bobby Robson, the 2003-04 season could be his last real chance to land the English League title. Time is running out for the 70-year-old, despite his perpetual enthusiasm for the game.

In the space of four years, Robson has assembled a talented crop of young players, with Lee Bowyer the latest to arrive. But the manager's abilities to keep control of a potentially rowdy bunch have been called into question. Bowyer is now reunited with former Leeds team-mate Jonathan Woodgate, with whom he stood trial in 2001 over a street attack; Kieron Dyer has reportedly calmed

Up front...Helder Postiga joins Spurs' strikeforce

down after crashing his sportscar into a Newcastle bridge last year; but Craig Bellamy's recent appearance in court following a nightclub incident in Cardiff will have reinforced concerns.

With the arrival of Bowyer, competition for midfield places will be tight, with Gary Speed, Hugo Viana and Nolberto Solano all unsure of their position.

Bowyer aside, it has been a quiet summer on the transfer front, with Greek defender Nikos Dabizas released by the club, leading to concerns that Newcastle again look a little lightweight in defence. But last season's side, which pushed Man United and Arsenal close for most of the title race and were involved in a thrilling Champions League campaign, should prove good value.

HOW THEY LINE UP

Given – Hughes, Woodgate, O'Brien, Bernard – Bowyer, Dyer, Jenas, Speed – Shearer, Bellamy.

A 4-4-2 formation brings out the best in Shearer and Bellamy, but Newcastle's strength is their midfield.

PORTSMOUTH

Pompey are back in the top division after a 15-year absence thanks to a blistering campaign last season which culminated in them winning the Division One championship. Backed by USA-based, Yugoslavia-born chairman Milan Mandaric, Portsmouth bucked the Nationwide trend of belt-tightening by spending their way to promotion. Experienced professionals such as Paul Merson (since released), Tim Sherwood and Steve Stone joined forces with the likes of Hayden Foxe and Svetoslav Todorov, players who couldn't quite cut it during Pompey manager Harry Redknapp's time at West Ham. Whether they can make it second time round is debatable, but Redknapp's penchant for wheeler-dealing – in come Teddy Sheringham (Tottenham), Boris Zivkovic (Leverkusen) and Dejan Stefanovic (Vitesse) – suggests they will give it their best shot.

SOUTHAMPTON

Last season's Cup-finalists are preparing for their first UEFA Cup campaign with low-key activity in the transfer market. The loss of Wayne Bridge to Chelsea was a blow, albeit one cushioned by £7m and the arrival of Graeme Le Saux, the former England international who continues to be overlooked by Sven Goran Eriksson despite impressive form on the left side of defence and midfield.

TOTTENHAM

One of the summer's big spenders, splashing out almost £14m on three new strikers – Helder Postiga (Porto), Bobby Zamora (Brighton) and Freddy Kanoute (West Ham) – while also lowering the average age of the squad with a major clearout: the likes of Ben Thatcher (Leicester), Teddy Sheringham (Portsmouth), Steffen Iversen (Wolves) and Steffen Freund have been released. Darren Anderton, however, rejected a move to his first club, Portsmouth, and stays.

Concerns remain about the strength-in-depth of manager Glenn Hoddle's squad, as well as the long-term fitness of such players as Jamie Redknapp and Christian Ziege. But further progress is expected on last season's 10th place.

WOLVES

Promoted through the play-offs after 19 years in the lower leagues, including two in the old Fourth Division, Wolves have finally given their long-suffering fans something to shout about, especially as they passed relegated local rivals West Brom on the way back up.

It's a welcome return for manager Dave Jones, who was hounded out of Southampton following allegations (since disproved) of child abuse, but offered a chance to revive his career by Wolves. However, his side are, inevitably, one of the favourites to go straight back down. The list of new signings – Oleh Luzhnyi (Arsenal), Isaac Okoronkwo (Shakhtar Donetsk), Silas (Uniao Leiria) Steffen Iversen (Spurs) – does not inspire confidence.

Prospect...Darren Fletcher

LEE BOWYER
Newcastle
A free transfer after his disappointing spell with relegated West Ham. Could turn out to be the bargain of the season.

DARREN FLETCHER
Manchester United
Scottish midfielder who is seen as the brightest prospect to have come through the Old Trafford youth ranks for some time. On United's US tour, he wore the No 7 shirt previously worn by David Beckham.

GLEN JOHNSON
Chelsea
The first signing of the Roman Abramovich era at Stamford Bridge, having made just 16 appearances for West Ham. Highly-rated right-back with England Under-21 caps.

PHILIPPE SENDEROS
Arsenal
Swiss teenager signed from Servette amid strong competition. Arsenal's lack of transfer activity suggests that Senderos, a tall, muscular centre-back, could get his chance sooner rather than later. ***See Talent Scout, page 115.***

BOBBY ZAMORA
Tottenham
Summer signing from Brighton, where he gained a reputation as a maker and taker of goals, having been released by West Ham as a teenager.

THE NEW SEASON IN ENGLAND – SQUADS

ARSENAL

GOALKEEPERS
1 Jens LEHMANN (Ger)
24 Rami SHABAAN
13 Stuart TAYLOR

DEFENDERS
23 Sol CAMPBELL
3 Ashley COLE
18 Pascal CYGAN (Fra)
5 Martin KEOWN
12 LAUREN Etame-Mayer (Cam)
20 Philippe SENDEROS (Swi)
26 Igor STEPANOVS (Lat)
27 Stathis TAVLARIDIS (Gre)
28 Habib Kolo TOURE (IvC)

MIDFIELDERS
17 EDU (Bra)
19 GILBERTO SILVA (Bra)
8 Fredrik LJUNGBERG (Swe)
15 Ray PARLOUR
7 Robert PIRES (Fra)
16 Giovanni VAN BRONCKHORST (Hol)
4 Patrick VIEIRA (Fra)

FORWARDS
30 Jeremie ALIADIERE (Fra)
10 Dennis BERGKAMP (Hol)
14 Thierry HENRY (Fra)
9 Francis JEFFERS
25 Nwankwo KANU (Nig)
21 Jermaine PENNANT
11 Sylvain WILTORD (Fra)

MANAGER
Arsene WENGER (Fra)

OUT: Seaman (Manchester City), Svard (FC Copenhagen, loan), Luzhnyi (Wolves), Volz (Fulham, loan)

ASTON VILLA

GOALKEEPERS
1 Peter ENCKELMAN (Fin)
13 Stefan POSTMA (Hol)
Thomas SORENSEN (Den)

DEFENDERS
5 ALPAY Ozalan (Tur)
6 Gareth BARRY
2 Mark DELANEY (Wal)
30 Rob EDWARDS (Wal)
27 Ronny JOHNSEN (Nor)
4 Olof MELLBERG (Swe)
24 Liam RIDGEWELL
21 J Lloyd SAMUEL
11 Steve STAUNTON (Ire)
29 Peter WHITTINGHAM

MIDFIELDERS
31 Stephen COOKE
15 Ulises DE LA CRUZ (Ecu)
33 Joey GUDJONSSON (Ice)
20 Mustapha HADJI (Mor)
17 Lee HENDRIE
12 Thomas HITZLSPERGER (Ger)
22 Hassan KACHLOUL (Mor)
26 Mark KINSELLA (Ire)
Gavin McCANN

FORWARDS
14 Marcus ALLBACK (Swe)
8 Juan Pablo ANGEL (Col)
19 Bosko BALABAN (Cro)
23 Michael BOULDING
16 Peter CROUCH
9 Dion DUBLIN
32 Luke MOORE
25 Stefan MOORE
10 Darius VASSELL

MANAGER
David O'LEARY (Ire)

OUT: Leonhardsen (released), Wright (Middlesbrough), Taylor (Derby)

BIRMINGHAM

GOALKEEPERS
1 Ian BENNETT
Maik TAYLOR (NI)
18 Nico VAESEN (Blg)

DEFENDERS
13 Tony CAPALDI (NI)
6 Aliou CISSE (Sen)
23 Jamie CLAPHAM
33 Ferdinand COLY (Sen)
4 Kenny CUNNINGHAM (Ire)
21 Nicky EADEN
3 Martin GRAINGER
17 Michael JOHNSON (Jam)
2 Jeff KENNA (Ire)
5 Darren PURSE
30 Matthew SADLER
26 Olivier TEBILY (Fra)
25 Matthew UPSON

MIDFIELDERS
24 Darren CARTER
32 Stephen CLEMENCE
7 Paul DEVLIN (Sco)
16 David DUNN
10 Bryan HUGHES
22 Damien JOHNSON (NI)
11 Stan LAZARIDIS (Aus)
8 Robbie SAVAGE (Wal)
20 Tommy WILLIAMS

FORWARDS
21 Christophe DUGARRY (Fra)
29 Craig FAGAN
Luciano FIGUEROA (Arg)
9 Geoff HORSFIELD
14 Stern JOHN (T&T)
15 Jovan KIROVSKI (US)
19 Clinton MORRISON (Ire)

MANAGER
Steve BRUCE

OUT: Swierczewski (Marseille), Mooney, Vickers, Davis (released)

BLACKBURN

GOALKEEPERS
1 Brad FRIEDEL (USA)
13 Alan KELLY (Ire)
28 David YELLDELL (USA)

DEFENDERS
5 Lorenzo AMORUSO (Ita)
27 Gordon GREER (Sco)
3 Vratislav GRESKO (Slk)
29 James McEVELEY
25 Marc Sebastian PELZER (Ger)
6 Craig SHORT
15 Andy TODD

MIDFIELDERS
23 Brett EMERTON (Aus)
7 Garry FLITCROFT
14 Nils-Eric JOHANSSON (Swe)
2 Lucas NEILL (Aus)
12 Steven REID (Ire)
20 David THOMPSON
3 TUGAY Kerimoglu (Tur)

FORWARDS
9 Andy COLE
17 Paul GALLAGHER
18 Corrado GRABBI (Ita)
10 Matt JANSEN
22 Egil OSTENSTAD (Nor)
19 Dwight YORKE (T&T)

MANAGER
Graeme SOUNESS (Sco)

OUT: Duff (Chelsea), Dunn (Birmingham), Curtis, Gillespie, Hignett (all Leicester), Dunning, Corbett, Richards (all released), Danns, Douglas (both Blackpool, loan), Berg (Rangers)

BOLTON

GOALKEEPERS
22 Jussi JAASKELAINEN (Fin)
1 Kevin POOLE

DEFENDERS
2 Anthony BARNESS
3 Simon CHARLTON
18 Nicky HUNT
16 IVAN CAMPO (Spa)
17 Florent LAVILLE (Fra)
23 Danny LIVESEY
5 Bruno N'GOTTY (Fra)

MIDFIELDERS
13 Youri DJORKAEFF (Fra)
21 Gareth FARRELLY (Ire)
8 Per FRANDSEN (Den)
11 Ricardo GARDNER (Jam)
7 Stelios GIANNAKOPOULOS (Gre)
24 Jermaine JOHNSON (Jam)
4 Kevin NOLAN
10 Jay-Jay OKOCHA (Nig)
20 Jeff SMITH

FORWARDS
Kevin DAVIES
19 Delroy FACEY
9 Henrik PEDERSEN (Den)
12 Jonathan WALTERS

MANAGER
Sam ALLARDYCE

OUT: Bergsson (retired), Whitlow (Sheffield United), Tofting, Armstrong, Hendry, Downey, Richardson, Warhurst (all released)

CHARLTON

GOALKEEPERS
1 Dean KIELY (Ire)
13 Paul RACHUBKA
25 Simon ROYCE

DEFENDERS
6 Mark FISH (SAf)
24 Jonathan FORTUNE
12 Hermann HREIDARSSON (Ice)
2 Radostin KISHISHEV (Bul)
18 Paul KONCHESKY
3 Chris POWELL
15 Gary ROWETT
5 Richard RUFUS
28 Osei SANKOFA
23 Michael TURNER
19 Luke YOUNG

MIDFIELDERS
14 Chris BART-WILLIAMS
22 Jamal CAMPBELL-RYCE
26 Adrian DEANE
27 Mark DEBOLLA
8 Matt HOLLAND (Ire)
10 Claus JENSEN (Den)
29 Neil McCAFFERTY (Ire)
7 Scott PARKER
4 Graham STUART

FORWARDS
17 Shaun BARTLETT (SAf)
Paolo DI CANIO (Ita)
9 Jason EUELL
21 Jonatan JOHANSSON (Fin)
16 Kevin LISBIE
20 Mathias SVENSSON (Swe)

MANAGER
Alan CURBISHLEY

OUT: Robinson (Cardiff), Roberts (released)

CHELSEA

GOALKEEPERS
31 Marco AMBROSIO (Ita)
23 Carlo CUDICINI (Ita)
Jurgen MACHO (Aut)
40 Lenny PIDGELEY

DEFENDERS
3 Celestine BABAYARO (Nig)
Winston BOGARDE (Hol)
18 Wayne BRIDGE
6 Marcel DESAILLY (Fra)
19 Valerio DI CESARE (Ita)
13 William GALLAS (Fra)
29 Robert HUTH (Ger)
2 Glen JOHNSON
33 Joel KITAMARIKE
15 Mario MELCHIOT (Hol)
26 John TERRY

MIDFIELDERS
10 Joe COLE
14 GEREMI Njitap (Cam)
30 Jesper GRONKJAER (Den)
36 Joe KEENAN
8 Frank LAMPARD
27 Alexis NICOLAS
17 Emmanuel PETIT (Fra)
12 Mario STANIC (Cro)
20 Juan Sebastian VERON (Arg)
11 Boudewijn ZENDEN (Hol)

FORWARDS
39 Carlton COLE
11 Damien DUFF (Ire)
32 Mikael FORSSELL (Fin)
22 Eidur GUDJOHNSEN (Ice)
9 Jimmy Floyd HASSELBAINK (Hol)
Adrian MUTU (Rom)
28 Filipe OLIVEIRA (Por)

MANAGER
Claudio RANIERI (Ita)

OUT: Zola (Cagliari), Le Saux (Southampton), Morris (Leeds), De Lucas, Ferrer, De Goey (released)

EVERTON

GOALKEEPERS
35 Paul GERRARD
13 Steve SIMONSEN
1 Richard WRIGHT

DEFENDERS
27 Peter CLARKE
28 Tony HIBBERT
15 Gary NAYSMITH (Sco)
34 Sean O'HANLON
3 Alessandro PISTONE (Ita)
4 Alan STUBBS
6 David UNSWORTH
2 Steve WATSON
5 David WEIR (Sco)
20 Joseph YOBO (Nig)

MIDFIELDERS
7 Niclas ALEXANDERSSON (Swe)
26 Lee CARSLEY (Ire)
17 Scot GEMMILL (Sco)
16 Thomas GRAVESEN (Den)
12 LI Tie (Chn)
22 Tobias LINDEROTH (Swe)
29 Kevin McLEOD
31 Leon OSMAN
11 Mark PEMBRIDGE (Wal)

FORWARDS
9 Kevin CAMPBELL
30 Nick CHADWICK
10 Duncan FERGUSON (Sco)
8 Tomasz RADZINSKI (Can)
18 Wayne ROONEY

MANAGER
David MOYES (Sco)

OUT: Rodrigo, Pilkington (released)

FULHAM

GOALKEEPERS
13 Ross FLITNEY
1 Edwin VAN DER SAR (Hol)

DEFENDERS
Jerome BONNISSEL (Fra)
17 Martin DJETOU (Fra)
24 Alain GOMA (Fra)
7 Jon HARLEY
36 Mark HUDSON
16 Zat KNIGHT
39 Dean LEACOCK
4 Andy MELVILLE (Wal)
27 Pierre WOME (Cam)

MIDFIELDERS
8 Lee CLARK
23 Sean DAVIS
6 Junichi INAMOTO (Jap)
18 Sylvain LEGWINSKI (Fra)
31 Eddie LEWIS (USA)
14 Steed MALBRANQUE (Fra)
40 Andrej STOLCERS (Lat)
Moritz VOLZ (Ger)

FORWARDS
22 Luis BOA MORTE (Por)
34 Elvis HAMMOND (Gha)
15 Barry HAYLES
7 Steve MARLET (Fra)
20 Louis SAHA (Fra)
9 Facundo SAVA (Arg)
33 Callum WILLOCK

MANAGER
Chris COLEMAN (Wal)

OUT: Finnan (Liverpool), Collins (retired), Goldbaek (released), Herrera (Estudiantes, loan), Taylor (Birmingham), Cornwell (released), Ouaddou (Rennes, loan)

LEEDS

GOALKEEPERS
15 Nigel MARTYN
26 Danny MILOSEVIC (Aus)
1 Paul ROBINSON

DEFENDERS
6 Zoumana CAMARA (Fra)
Didier DOMI (Fra)
2 Michael DUBERRY
3 Ian HARTE (Ire)
2 Gary KELLY (Ire)
36 Matthew KILGALLON
21 Dominic MATTEO (Sco)
18 Danny MILLS
5 Lucas RADEBE (SAf)

MIDFIELDERS
19 Eirik BAKKE (Nor)
7 Nick BARMBY
23 David BATTY
20 Seth JOHNSON
39 Simon JOHNSON
37 Paul KEEGAN
28 Jamie McMASTER
14 Stephen McPHAIL (Ire)
4 Jody MORRIS
24 Paul OKON (Aus)
16 Jason WILCOX

FORWARDS
8 Michael BRIDGES
38 James MILNER
17 Alan SMITH
9 Mark VIDUKA (Aus)

MANAGER
Peter REID

OUT: Dacourt (Roma), Kewell (Liverpool), Singh (Bury, loan), Burns (released)

LEICESTER

GOALKEEPERS
16 Danny COYNE (Wal)
1 Ian WALKER

DEFENDERS
28 Jon ASHTON
29 John CURTIS
14 Callum DAVIDSON (Sco)
18 Matt ELLIOTT (Sco)
25 Matt HEATH
24 Steve HOWEY
Nicolas PRIET (Fra)
15 Alan ROGERS
21 Riccardo SCIMECA
3 Frank SINCLAIR
4 Gerry TAGGART (NI)
33 Ben THATCHER

MIDFIELDERS
7 Keith GILLESPIE (NI)
Craig HIGNETT
2 Andrew IMPEY
6 Muzzy IZZET (Tur)
17 Matthew JONES (Wal)
26 Junior LEWIS
32 Billy McKINLAY (Sco)
8 Lilian NALIS (Fra)
11 Jordan STEWART

FORWARDS
20 Trevor BENJAMIN
12 Paul BROOKER
27 Brian DEANE
22 Paul DICKOV (Sco)
9 Les FERDINAND
10 James SCOWCROFT
23 Tommy WRIGHT

MANAGER
Micky ADAMS

OUT: Royce (Charlton), Ashton, Eadie, Flowers, Oakes, Reeves, Summerbee (all released)

LIVERPOOL

GOALKEEPERS
1 Jerzy DUDEK (Pol)
22 Chris KIRKLAND
29 Patrice LUZI (Fra)

DEFENDERS
6 Markus BABBEL (Ger)
23 Jamie CARRAGHER
3 Steve FINNAN (Ire)
2 Stephane HENCHOZ (Swi)
4 Sami HYYPIA (Fin)
30 Carl MEDJANI (Fra)
36 John OTSEMOBOR
21 Djimi TRAORE (Fra)
27 Gregory VIGNAL (Fra)

MIDFIELDERS
25 Igor BISCAN (Cro)
28 Bruno CHEYROU (Fra)
21 Salif DIAO (Sen)
38 Michael FOLEY-SHERIDAN (Ire)
17 Steven GERRARD
16 Dietmar HAMANN (Ger)
13 Danny MURPHY
26 Richie PARTRIDGE (Ire)
18 John Arne RIISE (Nor)
34 Daniel SJOLUND (Fin)
25 Stephen WARNOCK

FORWARDS
5 Milan BAROS (Cze)
9 El Hadji DIOUF (Sen)
8 Emile HESKEY
7 Harry KEWELL (Aus)
20 Anthony LE TALLEC (Fra)
10 Michael OWEN
24 Florent SINAMA-PONGOLLE (Fra)
11 Vladimir SMICER (Cze)

MANAGER
Gerard HOULLIER (Fra)

OUT: Berger (Portsmouth), Diomede (Ajaccio), Arphexad, Heggem (both released), Mellor (West Ham, loan)

MANCHESTER CITY

GOALKEEPERS
32 Kevin ELLEGAARD (Den)
20 Carlo NASH
1 David SEAMAN
12 Nicky WEAVER

DEFENDERS
27 Mikkel BISCHOFF (Den)
5 Sylvain DISTIN (Fra)
22 Richard DUNNE (Ire)
15 Alf Inge HAALAND (Nor)
25 Lucien METTOMO (Cam)
16 Paul RITCHIE (Sco)
2 David SOMMEIL (Fra)
17 SUN Jihai (Chn)
18 Michael TARNAT (Ger)
4 Gerard WIEKENS (Hol)

MIDFIELDERS
14 Eyal BERKOVIC (Isr)
26 Paul BOSVELT (Hol)
6 Kevin HORLOCK
30 Christian NEGOUAI (Fra)
Antoine SIBIERSKI (Fra)
28 Trevor SINCLAIR
19 Danny TIATTO (Aus)
29 Shaun WRIGHT-PHILLIPS

FORWARDS
39 Nicolas ANELKA (Fra)
8 Robbie FOWLER
7 Darren HUCKERBY
11 Jonathan MACKEN
9 Paulo WANCHOPE (CR)

MANAGER
Kevin KEEGAN

OUT: Schmeichel (retired), Benarbia (released), Howey (Leicester), Jensen (Dortmund), Goater (Reading), Whitling (Sunderland), Shuker (Rochdale, loan), Vuoso (Santos Laguna, loan)

MANCHESTER UNITED

GOALKEEPERS
1 Fabien BARTHEZ (Fra)
13 Roy CARROLL (NI)
Tim HOWARD (USA)
RICARDO Lopez (Spa)
30 Ben WILLIAMS

DEFENDERS
24 Wes BROWN
6 Rio FERDINAND
28 Kirk HILTON
38 Mark LYNCH
2 Gary NEVILLE
3 Philip NEVILLE
22 John O'SHEA (Ire)
26 Daniel PUGH
27 Mickael SILVESTRE (Fra)
41 Alan TATE

MIDFIELDERS
8 Nicky BUTT
19 Eric DJEMBA DJEMBA (Cam)
31 Darren FLETCHER (Sco)
25 Quinton FORTUNE (SAf)
11 Ryan GIGGS (Wal)
16 Roy KEANE (Ire)
KLEBERSON (Bra)
42 Kieron RICHARDSON
18 Paul SCHOLES

FORWARDS
David BELLION (Fra)
21 Diego FORLAN (Uru)
40 Daniel NARDIELLO
20 Ole Gunnar SOLSKJAER (Nor)
10 Ruud VAN NISTELROOY (Hol)
32 Neil WOOD

MANAGER
Alex FERGUSON (Sco)

OUT: Beckham (Real Madrid), Veron (Chelsea), Webber (Watford), Chadwick (Burnley, loan), Stewart (Nottm Forest, loan), Djordjic (Red Star Belgrade, loan)

MIDDLESBROUGH

GOALKEEPERS
25 Mark CROSSLEY (Wal)
35 Bradley JONES
1 Mark SCHWARZER (Aus)

DEFENDERS
28 Colin COOPER
24 Andrew DAVIES
4 Ugo EHIOGU
33 David MURPHY
30 Stuart PARNABY
3 Franck QUEUDRUE (Fra)
5 Chris RIGGOTT
6 Gareth SOUTHGATE
2 Robbie STOCKDALE (Sco)
Alan WRIGHT

MIDFIELDERS
7 George BOATENG (Hol)
20 DORIVA (Bra)
19 Stewart DOWNING
12 Jonathan GREENING
32 Allan JOHNSTON (Sco)
10 JUNINHO Paulista (Bra)
23 Carlos MARINELLI (Arg)
21 Mark WILSON

FORWARDS
11 Malcolm CHRISTIE
16 Joseph-Desire JOB (Cam)
9 Massimo MACCARONE (Ita)
8 Szilard NEMETH (Slk)
17 Michael RICKETTS

MANAGER
Steve McCLAREN

OUT: Whelan (Millwall), Wilkshire (Bristol City)

NEWCASTLE

GOALKEEPERS
24 Tony CAIG
33 Adam COLLIN
1 Shay GIVEN (Ire)
13 Steve HARPER

DEFENDERS
35 Olivier BERNARD (Fra)
19 Titus BRAMBLE
36 Gary CALDWELL (Sco)
30 Stephen CALDWELL (Sco)
3 Robbie ELLIOTT
12 Andrew GRIFFIN
18 Aaron HUGHES (NI)
5 Andy O'BRIEN (Ire)
14 Wayne QUINN
27 Jonathan WOODGATE

MIDFIELDERS
6 Clarence ACUNA (Chl)
17 Darren AMBROSE
29 Lee BOWYER
8 Kieron DYER
21 Diego GAVILAN (Par)
45 HUGO VIANA (Por)
7 Jermaine JENAS
25 Brian KERR (Sco)
22 Jamie McCLEN
32 Laurent ROBERT (Fra)
4 Nolberto SOLANO (Per)
11 Gary SPEED (Wal)

FORWARDS
23 Shola AMEOBI
10 Craig BELLAMY (Wal)
28 Michael CHOPRA
16 Carl CORT
20 Lomana Tresor LUA LUA (DRC)
9 Alan SHEARER
37 Calvin ZOLA-MAKONGO (DRC)

MANAGER
Bobby ROBSON

OUT: Dabizas, Karelse (released)

PORTSMOUTH

GOALKEEPERS
1 Shaka HISLOP (T&T)
Harald WAPENAAR (Hol)

DEFENDERS
6 Arjan DE ZEEUW (Hol)
5 Hayden FOXE (Aus)
4 Eddie HOWE
30 Linvoy PRIMUS
Dejan STEFANOVIC (Ser)
14 Matthew TAYLOR
3 Jamie VINCENT
Boris ZIVKOVIC (Cro)

MIDFIELDERS
27 Neil BARRETT
Patrik BERGER (Cze)
13 Lassina DIABATE (Fra)
7 Kevin HARPER
26 Gary O'NEIL
15 Courtney PITT
11 Nigel QUASHIE
38 Tim SHERWOOD
19 Steve STONE

FORWARDS
20 Yakubu AIYEGBENI (Nig)
34 Deon BURTON (Jam)
Teddy SHERINGHAM
9 Svetoslav TODOROV (Bul)

MANAGER
Harry REDKNAPP

OUT: Crowe (Grimsby), Festa (Cagliari), Merson (Walsall), Nightingale, Tiler (both released)

SOUTHAMPTON

GOALKEEPERS
27 Scott BEVAN
28 Alan BLAYNEY
1 Paul JONES (Wal)

DEFENDERS
32 Chris BAIRD (NI)
15 Francis BENALI
2 Jason DODD
19 Danny HIGGINBOTHAM
22 Darren KENTON
3 Graeme LE SAUX
5 Claus LUNDEKVAM (Nor)
24 Garry MONK
11 Michael SVENSSON (Swe)
6 Paul WILLIAMS

MIDFIELDERS
23 Aaron DAVIES
18 Rory DELAP (Ire)
16 Mark DRAPER
29 Fabrice FERNANDES (Fra)
4 Chris MARSDEN
Neil McCANN (Sco)
8 Matthew OAKLEY
20 David PRUTTON
12 Anders SVENSSON (Swe)
33 Paul TELFER (Sco)
21 Jo TESSEM (Nor)

FORWARDS
9 James BEATTIE
34 Agustin DELGADO (Ecu)
36 Brett ORMEROD
17 Marian PAHARS (Lat)

MANAGER
Gordon STRACHAN (Sco)

OUT: Bridge (Chelsea), Davies (Bolton)

TOTTENHAM

GOALKEEPERS
24 Lars HIRSCHFELD (Can)
13 Kasey KELLER (USA)
1 Neil SULLIVAN (Sco)

DEFENDERS
5 Goran BUNJEVCEVIC (Ser)
2 Stephen CARR (Ire)
12 Gary DOHERTY (Ire)
30 Anthony GARDNER
37 Ronnie HENRY
34 Stephen KELLY
26 Ledley KING
6 Chris PERRY
36 Dean RICHARDS
3 Mauricio TARICCO (Arg)
23 Christian ZIEGE (Ger)

MIDFIELDERS
21 Milenko ACIMOVIC (Sln)
7 Darren ANDERTON
20 Jonathan BLONDEL (Blg)
29 Simon DAVIES (Wal)
40 Dean MARNEY
14 Gustavo POYET (Uru)
15 Jamie REDKNAPP
27 Rohan RICKETTS
44 Kazuyuki TODA (Jap)

FORWARDS
10 HELDER POSTIGA (Por)
Frederic KANOUTE (Fra)
8 Robbie KEANE (Ire)
25 Jamie SLABBER
Bobby ZAMORA

MANAGER
Glenn HODDLE

OUT: Freund (released), Sheringham (Portsmouth), Iversen (Wolves), Thatcher (Leicester), Etherington (West Ham), Thelwell (Hull)

WOLVERHAMPTON

GOALKEEPERS
Carlos KAMENI (Cam)
13 Matt MURRAY
1 Michael OAKES

DEFENDERS
6 Paul BUTLER
30 Mark CLYDE
Jody CRADDOCK
24 Marc EDWORTHY
8 Denis IRWIN (Ire)
5 Joleon LESCOTT
Oleh LUZHNYI (Ukr)
3 Lee NAYLOR
Isaac OKORONKWO (Nig)

MIDFIELDERS
19 Keith ANDREWS
10 Colin CAMERON (Sco)
15 Kevin COOPER
23 Paul INCE
21 Ivar INGIMARSSON (Ice)
11 Mark KENNEDY (Ire)
32 John MELLIGAN
7 Shaun NEWTON
4 Alex RAE (Sco)
SILAS (Por)

FORWARDS
9 Nathan BLAKE (Wal)
Henri CAMARA (Sen)
Steffen IVERSEN (Nor)
16 Kenny MILLER (Sco)
18 George NDAH
12 Adam PROUDLOCK
29 Dean STURRIDGE

MANAGER
Dave JONES

OUT: Ward (Kidderminster), Roussel (Genk), M Camara, Coleman, Pollet (all released)

All to play for

Nick Bidwell on another wide-open race for Le Championnat

Tough task...Dan Eggen will need all his experience to help keep Le Mans up

AJACCIO

The Corsicans stayed up only by one point last season and remain hamstrung by the smallest budget in the top flight, just £1.5million. Once again their strong suit will be their total commitment. But they are not without technical craft, particularly from ex-Liverpool wide man Bernard Diomede and midfielder Gregory Lacombe, on loan from Monaco.

AUXERRE

No question about the talent available to Guy Roux but it remains to be seen how motivated their star men will be. Djibril Cisse would now be at Liverpool if Roux had not vetoed the deal; libero Philippe Mexes is in dispute over his contract; and his partner in central defence, Jean-Alain Boumsong, and attacking midfielder Olivier Kapo had been widely expected to move on too. A rare new face is Ivory Coast attacker Bonaventure Kalou (Feyenoord).

BASTIA

Despite selling midfield dynamo Michael Essien to Lyon, Bastia have made a number of astute signings, including Serb central defender Nisa Saveljic (Sochaux), midfielder Benoit Cauet (Como) and attacker Frederic Nee, a huge success in a previous spell at Bastia before failing to shine at Lyon.

BORDEAUX

Six months after attacker Christophe Dugarry and defender David Sommeil packed up and left for the Premiership, three more of Bordeaux's headlining acts have exited stage left. Star striker Pauleta has joined Paris Saint-Germain, versatile defender Kodjo Afanou is opting for the petro-dollars of Al Ain in the United Arab Emirates and Brazilian midfielder Savio returns to Spain following a loan spell. Club president Jean-Louis Triaud hopes to win over disgruntled fans with a trio of new boys: Argentinian centre-back Mauricio Pochettino (ex-Paris Saint-Germain), Brazilian attacker Deivid (Cruzeiro) and Spanish left-sided midfielder Albert Riera (Mallorca).

Contract dispute...Mexes of Auxerre

GUINGAMP

The Breton club played some of the most attractive football in the country last season, finishing a creditable seventh. But success at a small-town club has its downside, and they were powerless to prevent their most marketable assets, Ivory Coast striker Didier Drogba and left-sided midfielder Florent Malouda, leaving for Marseille and Lyon. Not that all is lost. Swiss midfielder Ricardo Cabanas (Grasshopper) and Burkina Faso striker Moumouni Dagano (Genk) are hardly sub-standard replacements.

Puzzling...Sidney Govou has been switched to Lyon's midfield from a striking role

LE MANS

Young coach Thierry Goudet worked wonders with limited financial resources to take the club into the top flight for the first time, but faces a massive test of his abilities to keep them there. He needs striker Daniel Cousin and midfielder Philippe Celdran to reproduce their outstanding form of last season, as well as solid contributions from new signings such as veteran Norwegian central defender Dan Eggen (Alaves), midfield workhorse Fernando D'Amico (Lille) and Romanian attacker Sergiu Radu, from National Bucharest.

LENS

An eighth-place finish last term was just not good enough for a hugely ambitious club with massive support. A mass clear-out would have followed if the transfer market was not so stagnant. Hope for better tomorrows comes in the shape of national Under-21 goalkeeper Charles Itandje, Nigerian international attacker John Utaka and young midfielder Olivier Thomert.

LILLE

The days when the northerners were involved in the Champions League are long gone. Indeed, Lille are a much-favoured bet for relegation. While they have given themselves more defensive options with the signing of Mathieu Bodmer (Caen) and Eric Abidal (Monaco), the problem of their blunt front-line has not been addressed; the Bulgarian Vladimir Manchev is a gifted attacker but is not the tried and tested scorer the club desperately need.

LYON

With their sights set on a third consecutive title and progress beyond the group stage of the Champions League, Lyon added quality to their ranks by signing French Under-21 full-back Anthony Reveillere – who was on loan at Valencia from Rennes last season – and two of the League's most promising young midfielders: Florent Malouda (ex-Guingamp) and Ghanaian Michael Essien (Bastia). Where Lyon could fall down is in attack. Prolific Brazilian striker Sonny Anderson left this summer to end his career in Spain with Villarreal; coach Paul Le Guen has preferred to use Sidney Govou on the right of midfield instead of his normal role up front; and front-runner Pegguy Luyindula has yet to fulfil the promise he showed as a youngster at Strasbourg. Despite threatening never to play again for the club after they turned down his request for a lengthy contract extension, Gregory Coupet remains in goal.

HOW THEY LINE UP

Coupet – Deflandre, Muller, Cacapa, Reveillere – Essien, Dhorasoo – Malouda, Juninho – Govou – Luyindula.

Not surprisingly for a former holding midfielder, Le Guen is a rather conservative tactician, and his pet formation features just one man up front, with midfielders flooding forward in support. Nominally, Essien and Dhorasoo exist to protect the back four but both are extremely comfortable on the ball and will make frequent sorties into enemy territory. Eric Carriere is a high-class alternative to Juninho in central midfield.

MARSEILLE

Step by step, the new men at the helm – president Christophe Bouchet and general manager/coach Alain Perrin – are building a club to compete with the best both at home and abroad. A sensible business plan is in place, debts have been cut, an overmanned squad pruned and, vitally, they have bought well this summer. True, they missed out on transfer targets such as Pauleta, Sochaux midfield pivot Benoit Pedretti and Auxerre centre-back Jean-Alain Boumsong. But Plan B was not at all bad. France sweeper Philippe Christanval and Lille defensive midfielder Sylvain N'Diaye were picked up on Bosman frees from Barcelona and Lille respectively, while for just £13m, Marseille bought three up-and-coming youngsters: Egyptian striker Ahmed 'Mido' Hossam, who spent the latter part of last season on loan at Celta Vigo from Ajax, Guingamp's talented Ivory Coast front-man Didier Drogba, and Czech midfielder Stepan Vachousek (Slavia Prague). The arrival of Mido and Drogba is just what the doctor ordered; last season the club barely managed a goal a game in the League.

HOW THEY LINE UP

Runje – Ecker, Van Buyten, Christanval, Perez – Hemdani, Vachousek, Celestini – Sychev – Hossam, Drogba.

The football world according to Perrin is based on meticulous organisation, a high pressing game and plentiful attacking movement. With skipper Manuel Dos Santos out with a broken leg, Sebastien Perez or Cameroonian Salomon Olembe will step in. N'Diaye and Pascal Johansen should see plenty of action in midfield, too, while Ibrahima Bakayoko and Fernandao are front-line substitutes.

Class act...Philippe Christanval will strengthen Marseille's defence

METZ

The promoted Lorraine club simply do not have the money for major raids on the transfer market and the only signing of note was Senegalese forward Pape Thiaw from Lausanne. He will take the place of young Togo striker Emmanuel Adebayor, who recently joined Monaco.

MONACO

An eleventh-hour injection of funds (£34m) from new backers was sufficient to prevent the club, who at the end of last season were estimated to be £63m in debt, being demoted to the Third Division. But the reprieve came too late to save the skin of president Jean-Louis Campora, who was forced to step aside in favour of local financier Pierre Svara. He is a close acquaintance of the principality's heir to the throne, Prince Albert.

Much to the relief of coach Didier Deschamps, the clearing up of the financial mess laid to rest all fears of a mass exodus of talent. Shabani Nonda, the top scorer in France last term with 26 goals, swiftly backtracked on a proposed move to Lyon, Italian keeper Flavio Roma turned down a transfer to Arsenal, while speculation that midfielders Jerome Rothen and skipper Ludovic Giuly were to move on faded away.

The bulk of the Monegasque line-up that played so stylishly last term to finish runners-up in the championship and win the League Cup remains intact. The only departure of note is Barcelona-bound Mexican centre-back Rafael Marquez, though Argentinian playmaker Marcelo Gallardo, sparingly used by Deschamps last term, also appears to be on his way out of the club.

A cap on incoming transfers restricted Monaco to the loan signing of Paris Saint-Germain midfielder Edouard Cisse and promising Togo striker Emmanuel Adebayor from Metz.

HOW THEY LINE UP

Roma – El-Fakiri, Squillaci, Rodriguez, Evra – Zikos, Bernardi, Giuly, Rothen – Nonda, Prso.

The key to Monaco's 4-4-2 system is the penetration and creativity of the two wide midfield men, Giuly (right) and Rothen (left). They provide a countless stream of chances for the muscular front-line partnership of Nonda and Dado Prso, though the young Senegalese attacker Souleymane Camara comes in for the latter when more pace and subtlety is required.

Pointing the way...Monaco's Nonda and Rothen want the title this time

MONTPELLIER

With their transfer expenditure closely monitored by the financial watchdogs at the French League, incoming players have been kept to a minimum. Their only trip to the sales yielded Japan midfielder Nozomi Hiroyama from Braga. Montpellier's trump cards are young guns such as Cameroon midfielder Valery Mezague and attackers Habib Bamogo and Bertrand Robert, younger brother of Newcastle winger Laurent.

Metz new boy...Pape Thiaw

NANTES

Unable to concoct a winning blend from all the homegrown talent at his disposal, coach Angel Marcos was shown the door after 18 months in charge and replaced by reserve team boss Loic Amisse, the ex-Nantes and France winger. Apart from the sale to Manchester United of Cameroon utility player Eric Djemba Djemba, this part of western France was not the place to go for transfer activity.

NICE

A solid defence and lightning counter-attacks brought the *Nicois*

many a scalp last term and there is no reason to believe they will be any less successful with the same formula in the months ahead. Contrary to expectations talented midfielders Everson and Yoann Bigne did not fly the nest, while experienced former national team striker Lilian Laslandes arrived from Sunderland via Bastia.

PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN

The new management team of chairman Francis Graille and coach Vahid Halilhodzic certainly played a blinder in the off-season. Not only did they skilfully ratchet up the price on Ronaldinho's head before completing a £20.7m deal with Barcelona, but the pair also bought extremely well. In came the outstanding goalscoring prowess of Pauleta (Bordeaux), Cameroon midfielder Modeste Mbami (Sedan) and Swiss playmaker Hakan Yakin (Basle). The PSG squad is radically different to last season. One of Halilhodzic's first acts was to declare 15 pros surplus to requirements.

RENNES

Specialists in underachievement and making big-money signings who fail to deliver, the *Rennais* have announced their intention to put their faith in youth, to give a chance to local Breton players. Laudable sentiments but can they put it into practice? Former Sporting Lisbon boss Laszlo Boloni takes over as coach from PSG-bound Vahid Halilhodzic.

Paris goals...Pauleta

SOCHAUX

To the relief of board, fans and players, rumours that coach Guy Lacombe was on the wanted list of Paris Saint-Germain did not become reality. Well-organised at the back, a tremendously fluent attacking force, and blessed with an abundance of youthful promise – the latest to make their mark are full-back Sylvain Monsoreau and schemer Jeremy Mathieu – Sochaux are very much a team on the up. Despite being linked with every top club in the country, France midfielder Benoit Pedretti seems set to stay – barring late, late developments.

STRASBOURG

A new era has begun at the Alsace club. Worn down by poor results and supporter protests, the IMG sports marketing group handed over control to a consortium led by German advertising executive Egon Gindorf; on the coaching front, Czech Ivan Hasek made way for Antoine Kombouare, the former boss of Paris Saint-Germain reserves. Strasbourg have gone Swedish in the transfer market, acquiring midfielder Pontus Farnerud (on loan from Monaco) and ex-Djurgardens defender Mickael Dorsin.

TOULOUSE

Far from awash with cash, the Second Division champions will be largely relying on the men who served them so well last term: prolific striker Cedric Faure, ex-Paris Saint-Germain keeper Christophe Revault, centre-back Stephane Lievre and attacking midfielder Thibault Giresse, the son of former France midfield great Alain Giresse.

Staying for now...Sochaux's Benoit Pedretti has attracted a host of clubs

THE NEW SEASON IN FRANCE – SQUADS

AJACCIO

GOALKEEPERS
30 Florian LUCCHINI
1 Herve SEKLI
16 Stephane TREVISAN

DEFENDERS
25 Xavier COLLIN
13 Frederic DANJOU
26 Yohan DEMONT
24 Christophe DESTRUHAUT
2 David JAUREGUIBERRY
28 Stephane MAUREL
5 Martial ROBIN
12 Mamadou SECK (Sen)
4 David TERRIER
23 Laurent WUILLOT (Blg)
Abderaouf ZARABI (Alg)

MIDFIELDERS
20 Nicolas BONNAL
11 Renaud CONNEN
21 Cyril GRANON
17 Stephane GREGOIRE
15 Fabrice LEVRAT
3 Laurent MORACCHINI
10 Abdelnassar OUADAH (Alg)
8 Hoadid REGRAGUI (Mor)
14 Gregory URSULE

FORWARDS
18 Mamadou BAGAYOKO (Mli)
6 Xavier BECAS
27 Yacine BEZZAZ (Alg)
22 Bernard DIOMEDE
7 David FADERNE
9 Gregory LACOMBE

COACH
Dominique BIJOTAT

OUT: Achard (GFCO Ajaccio), Alicarte (Bordeaux), Ananko, Baudoin, Esnaider (released), Guglielmone (Nacional, Uru), Marquet (Dijon), Nyan (released), Rodriguez (Lens)

AUXERRE

GOALKEEPERS
30 Baptiste CHABERT
1 Fabien COOL
16 Sebastien HAMEL

DEFENDERS
4 Jean-Alain BOUMSONG
Mamoutou COULIBALY (Mli)
13 Stephane GRICHTING (Swi)
3 Jean-Sebastien JAURES
5 Philippe MEXES
12 Jean-Pascal MIGNOT
26 Jean-Joel PERRIER-DOUMBE (Cam)
2 Johan RADET

MIDFIELDERS
24 Pierre DEBLOCK
7 Amdy FAYE (Sen)
23 Olivier KAPO
8 Yann LACHUER
18 Lionel MATHIS
27 Francois SIRIEIX
10 Teemu TAINIO (Fin)
31 Hassan YEBDA

FORWARDS
11 Kanga Gauthier AKALE (IvC)
9 Djibril CISSE
17 Helder ESTEVES (Por)
20 Arnaud GONZALES
15 Bonaventure KALOU (IvC)
21 Benjani MWARUWARI (Zim)
14 David VANDENBOSSCHE

COACH
Guy ROUX

OUT: Agboh (Grenoble), Assati (released), Fadiga (Internazionale), Kamata (Chateuroux), Jay (Grenoble), Marin (Saint-Etienne), Sissoko (Valencia), Sopalski (Rouen)

BASTIA

GOALKEEPERS
16 Angelo HUGUES
1 Nicolas PENNETEAU
30 Daniel YEBOAH (IvC)

DEFENDERS
5 Demetrius FERREIRA (Bra)
Benjamin LONGUE
14 Frederic MENDY
6 Nisa SAVELJIC (Ser)
3 Morlaye SOUMAH (Gui)
4 Cedric URAS
28 Greg VANNEY (USA)
21 Anther YAHIA (Alg)

MIDFIELDERS
7 Laurent BATLLES
15 Benoit CAUET
8 Alou DIARRA
Paul-Herve ESSOLA (Cam)
10 Jocelyn GOURVENNEC
23 Adel GUEMARI
11 Youssouf HADJI (Mor)
20 Kevin JACMOT
17 Franck MATINGOUN
12 Sebastien PIOCELLE

FORWARDS
29 Chaouki BEN SAADA (Tun)
Samir BERTIN D'AVESNES
Cyril EBOKI-POH
19 Florian MAURICE
9 Frederic NEE

COACH
Gerard GILI

OUT: Ahamada (Nantes), Alnoudji (PSG), Audard (Lorient), Bloufa (released), Beneforti (Istres), Berenguer (Nancy), Billy (Lecce), Boumnijel (Rouen), Dieuze (Toulouse), Essien (Lyon), Jau (Saint-Etienne), Jeunechamp (Rennes), Laslandes (Sunderland), Moreau (Nancy), Silvestre (released), Vignal (Liverpool)

BORDEAUX

GOALKEEPERS
16 Ulrich RAME
1 Frederic ROUX
30 Mathieu VALVERDE

DEFENDERS
Anicet ADJAMOSSI (Ben)
4 Herve ALICARTE
25 Mathieu BEDA
19 BRUNO BASTO (Por)
4 Marco Antonio CANEIRA (Por)
2 David JEMMALI
6 Franck JURIETTI
27 Marc PLANUS
5 Mauricio POCHETTINO (Arg)

MIDFIELDERS
24 Olivier AURIAC
7 Eduardo COSTA (Bra)
Pablo FRANCIA
MAVUBA (Ang)
10 Camel MERIEM
20 PAULO COSTA (Por)
23 PAULO MIRANDA (Bra)
17 Nicolas SAHNOUN
8 Alexei SMERTIN (Rus)
11 Albert RIERA Ortega (Spa)
26 Ivan VUKOMANOVIC (Ser)

FORWARDS
29 Marouane CHAMAKH (Mor)
9 Jean-Claude DARCHEVILLE
18 DEIVID (Bra)
14 Pascal FEINDOUNO (Gui)
28 Alexei KOSSONOGOV (Rus)

COACH
Elie BAUP

OUT: Afanou (Al Ain, UAE), Bonnissel (Fulham), Bugnet (Le Havre), Christian (Gremio), Dugarry (Birmingham), Fiston (released), Leugueun (Istres), Pauleta (PSG), Savio (Zaragoza)

GUINGAMP

GOALKEEPERS
1 Ronan LE CROM
29 Eric LOUSSOUARN

DEFENDERS
19 Lionel BAH
Issa CISSOKHO
20 Romain FERRIER
2 Fabrizio FUENTES (Arg)
23 Auriol GUILLAUME
26 Jonathan JOSEPH-AUGUSTIN
17 Blaise KOUASSI (IvC)
3 Nicoles LASPALLES
5 Milovan SIKIMIC (Ser)
22 Alaeddine YAHIA (Tun)

MIDFIELDERS
15 Kemal BOUHRANI
8 Ricardo CABANAS (Swi)
25 Stephane CARNOT
Fabrice COLLEAU
14 Yann JOUFFRE
24 Jean-Baptiste LE BESCOND
4 Christophe LE ROUX
6 Claude MICHEL
28 Guillaume STEPHAN

FORWARDS
11 Pierre-Yves ANDRE
9 Cedric BARDON
7 Beli Moumouni DAGANO (BuF)
27 Jawed EL-HAIRI
13 Nicolas GOUSSE
21 Farid TALHAOUI (Mor)
Matias VITKIEVIEZ (Uru)

COACH
Bertrand MARCHAND

OUT: Danic (Rennes), Drogba (Marseille), Fabbri (released), Gauclin (Wasquehal), Gnanhouan (Sochaux), Herve (released), Joseph-Augustin (Grenoble), Malouda (Lyon), Montero (released), Saci (Metz)

LE MANS

GOALKEEPERS
16 Jean-Francois BEDENIK
1 Vincent DEMARCONNAY
30 Yohann PELE

DEFENDERS
20 Laurent BONNART
23 Eddy CAPRON
18 Jean-Jacques DOMORAUD
3 Dan EGGEN (Nor)
2 Thabang MOLEFE (SAf)
19 Yoann POULARD
6 Olivier THOMAS

MIDFIELDERS
15 Sekou BARADJI
11 Philippe CELDRAN
27 Fernando Osvaldo D'AMICO (Ita)
4 Jerome DROUIN
7 Yohan HAUTCOEUR
13 Cedric LIABEUF
28 Jacques-Desire PERIATAMBEE
5 Frederic THOMAS

FORWARDS
9 Daniel COUSIN (Gab)
17 James FANCHONE
12 Fabrice PANCRATE
8 Laurent PEYRELADE
29 Sergiu RADU (Rom)
25 Yannick Rirasi YENGA (DRC)

COACH
Thierry GOUDET

OUT: Ait Ouarab (Wasquehal), Arnaud (Reims), Bolivard (released), Bridonneau (released), Cerdan (Sannois-Saint-Gratien), Freitas (Sannois-Saint-Gratien), Correia (Creteil), Fabien (Tours), Louiron (Tours), Pedemas (coaching staff), S Pele (Rennes), Rangdet (Creteil)

LENS

GOALKEEPERS
16 Sebastien CHABBERT
30 Charles ITANDJE
1 Niki MAENPAA (Fin)

DEFENDERS
6 Jacek BAK (Pol)
Patrick BARUL
4 Adama COULIBALY (Mli)
24 Rod FANNI
23 Abdoulaye FAYE (Sen)
27 Daouda JABI (Gui)
17 Yoann LACHOR
26 Cyril ROOL
2 Eric SIKORA
3 Rigobert SONG (Cam)

MIDFIELDERS
31 Charles-Edouard CORIDON
13 Mounir DIANE (Mor)
19 Pape Bouba DIOP (Sen)
5 Alexandro FURTADO (Bra)
22 Yazid KAISSI (Mor)
8 Seydou KEITA (Mli)
11 Pape SARR (Sen)
18 Olivier THOMERT

FORWARDS
20 Dagui BAKARI (IvC)
32 Bouabid BOUDEN (Mor)
10 Daniel MOREIRA
29 Ibrahima N'DIAYE (Sen)
14 Bruno RODRIGUEZ
7 Antoin SIBIERSKI
21 John UTAKA (Nig)

COACH
Joel MULLER

OUT: Bucher (Valenciennes), Camara (Leeds), Fuertes (released), Pedron (Lorient)

LILLE

GOALKEEPERS
16 Gregory MALICKI
30 Laurent PICHON
1 Gregory WIMBEE

DEFENDERS
14 Eric ABIDAL
3 Marius BACIU (Rom)
21 Mathieu CHALME
23 Mathieu DELPIERRE
4 Abdelilah FAHMI (Mor)
18 Stephane PICHOT
5 Rafael SCHMITZ (Bra)
20 Gregory TAFFOREAU

MIDFIELDERS
12 Mathieu BODMER
10 Philippe BRUNEL
22 Benoit CHEYROU
29 Stephane DUMONT
24 Christophe LANDRIN

FORWARDS
15 Djezon BOUTOILLE
8 Geoffrey DERNIS
17 Jean MAKOUN (Cam)
7 Vladimir MANCHEV (Bul)
26 Mathieu MATON
13 Matt MOUSSILOU
19 Mile STERJOVSKI (Aus)
9 Hector TAPIA (Chl)

COACH
Claude PUEL

OUT: Abidal (Monaco), Bonnal (Ajaccio), D'Amico (Le Mans), Fortune (Rouen), N'Diaye (Marseille), Olufade (Charleroi), Saez (Angers)

LYON

GOALKEEPERS
1 Gregory COUPET
30 Nicolas PUYDEBOIS
25 Remi VERCOUTRE

DEFENDERS
23 Jeremie BERTHOD
13 Jeremie BRECHET
5 Claudio CACAPA (Bra)
2 Eric DEFLANDRE (Blg)
3 EDMILSON Jose Gomes Moraes (Bra)
26 Gael GENEVIER
29 Yohan GOMEZ
20 Patrick MULLER (Swi)
12 Anthony REVEILLERE
22 Romain SARTRE
33 Johann TRUCHET

MIDFIELDERS
10 Eric CARRIERE
15 Christophe DELMOTTE
24 Vikash DHORASOO
7 Mahamadou DIARRA (Mli)
4 Michael ESSIEN (Gha)
8 JUNINHO Pernambucano (Bra)
11 Florent MALOUDA
6 Philippe VIOLEAU

FORWARDS
31 Bryan BERGOUGNOUX
32 Francois CLERC
14 Sidney GOVOU
18 Pegguy LUYINDULA
27 Julien VIALE

COACH
Paul LE GUEN

OUT: Anderson (Villarreal), Balmont (Toulouse), Genet (Le Havre), Hauw (Rouen), Montoya (Rouen), Jacmot (Bastia), Laville (Bolton), Nee (Bastia)

MARSEILLE

GOALKEEPERS
16 Cedric CARASSO
32 Jeremy GAVANON
1 Vedran RUNJE (Cro)

DEFENDERS
27 Camille BORIOS
5 Philippe CHRISTANVAL
3 Manuel DOS SANTOS
21 Johnny ECKER
25 Fabien LAURENTINI
12 Abdoulaye MEITE (IvC)
8 Sebastien PEREZ
4 Daniel VAN BUYTEN (Blg)

MIDFIELDERS
29 Fabio CELESTINI (Swi)
17 Jose DELFIM (Por)
6 Brahim HEMDANI
15 Pascal JOHANSEN
24 Mickael MARSIGLIA
32 Laurent MERLIN
26 Sylvain N'DIAYE (Sen)
20 Salomon OLEMBE (Cam)
7 Piotr SWIERCZEWSKI (Pol)
14 Stepan VACHOUSEK (Cze)

FORWARDS
10 Ibrahima BAKAYOKO (IvC)
11 Cyril CHAPUIS
14 Karim DAHOU
11 Didier DROGBA (IvC)
10 Lucio FERNANDAO (Bra)
9 Ahmed HOSSAM (Egy)
13 Lamine SAKHO (Sen)
22 Dmitri SYCHEV (Rus)

COACH
Alain PERRIN

OUT: Abardonado (Nice), Belmadi (released), Deschamps (Sedan), Gafour (Cannes), B Gavanon (Nancy), Gregori (Creteil), Gregorini (Nice), Leboeuf (Al Sadd), J Perez (Creteil), Reina (Gent), Tuzzio (River Plate)

Names in bold italic are new signings

METZ

GOALKEEPERS
30 Kossi AGASSA (Tog)
1 Ludovic BUTELLE
16 Johan LIEBUS

DEFENDERS
8 Samuel ALLEGRO
24 Schumann BAH
2 Frank BERIA
4 Stephane BORBICONI
28 Aimen DEMAI
18 Sylvain MARCHAL
19 Stephane MORISOT
25 Oguchi ONYEWU (USA)
3 Franck SIGNORINO

MIDFIELDERS
6 Mario ESPARTERO
17 Alexandre FRUTOS
22 Gregory LECA
13 Ludovic OBRANIAK
12 Gregory PROMENT
29 Christophe WALTER

FORWARDS
21 Babacar GUEYE (Sen)
23 Eric HASSLI
11 Jonathan JAGER
9 Tressor Malher MORENO (Col)
26 Sebastien RENOUARD
10 Hakim SACI (Alg)
20 Pape THIAW (Sen)

COACH
Jean FERNANDEZ

OUT: Adebayor (Monaco), Bastien (Lorient), Niang (Troyes), Pouget (Jeunesse d'Esch)

MONACO

GOALKEEPERS
16 Andre BIANCARELLI
1 Stephane PORATO
30 Flavio ROMA (Ita)
29 Tony SYLVA (Sen)

DEFENDERS
35 Hassan EL-FAKIRI (Nor)
3 Patrice EVRA
32 Gael GIVET-VIAROS
4 Hugo IBARRA (Arg)
23 Bruno IRLES
Nicolas PLESTAN
27 Julien RODRIGUEZ
19 Sebastien SQUILLACI

MIDFIELDERS
7 Lucas BERNARDI (Arg)
37 Sebastien CAROLE
14 Edouard CISSE
10 Marcelo GALLARDO (Arg)
8 Ludovic GIULY
21 Nicolas HILSEN
25 Jerome ROTHEN
15 Akis ZIKOS (Gre)

FORWARDS
24 Emmanuel ADEBAYOR (Tog)
25 Souleymane CAMARA (Sen)
31 Sebastien GRAX
20 Abdelramen MAZHAR (Egy)
18 Shabani NONDA (DRC)
6 Jaroslav PLASIL (Cze)
9 Dado PRSO (Cro)
36 Diego Ramiro QUINTERO (Arg)
11 Marco SIMONE (Ita)

COACH
Didier DESCHAMPS

OUT: Abidal (Lille), Cubilier (PSG), Farnerud (Strasbourg), Juretti (Bordeaux), Lacombe (Ajaccio), Marquez (Barcelona), Pierre-Fanfan (PSG), Sidibe (Chateauroux)

MONTPELLIER

GOALKEEPERS
30 Laurent PIONNIER
1 Rudy RIOU
16 Jodi VIVIANI

DEFENDERS
5 Mansour ASSOUMANI
3 Serge BLANC
17 Bruno CAROTTI
22 Julio COLOMBO
6 Nenad DZODIC (Ser)
4 Thierry GATHUESSI (Cam)
25 Romain GIACOPELLI
2 Sebastien MICHALOWSKI
21 Guillaume MOULLEC
12 Cyril RAMOND

MIDFIELDERS
18 Geoffrey DOUMENG
28 Nicolas GODEMECHE
14 Nozomi HIROYAMA (Jap)
8 Pierre LAIGLE
20 Fabien LEFEVRE
19 Valery MEZAGUE (Cam)
24 Jean-Christophe ROUVIERE

FORWARDS
26 Habib BAMOGO
12 Abdoulaye CISSE (BuF)
9 Jean-Mathieu DESCHAMPS
15 Jerome LAFOURCADE
11 Fode MANSARE (Gui)
10 Bertrand ROBERT
31 RUI PATACA (Por)

COACH
Gerard BERNARDET

OUT: Barbosa (Rennes), Fugier (retired), Guei (Chateuroux), Llorente (released), Paulo Sergio (Sporting Braga)

NANTES

GOALKEEPERS
16 Willy GRONDIN
1 Mickael LANDREAU
30 Perica RADIC (Ser)

DEFENDERS
22 Sylvain ARMAND
25 Jean-Hugues BILAYI ATEBA (Cam)
26 Marc BOUCHER
4 Mauro CETTO (Arg)
12 Pascal DELHOMMEAU
5 Nicolas GILLET
24 Loic GUILLON
6 Mario YEPES (Col)

MIDFIELDERS
13 Mathieu BERSON
8 Frederic DA ROCHA
34 Stephen DROUIN
35 Emerse FAE
23 Fodil HADJADJ (Alg)
27 Loic PAILLERES
14 Olivier QUINT
15 Nicolas SAVINAUD
17 Jeremy TOULALAN
29 Stephane ZIANI

FORWARDS
18 Hassan AHAMADA
27 Pierre ARISTOUY
21 Luigi GLOMBARD
3 Shiva N'ZIGOU (Gab)
28 Gregory PUJOL
19 Marama VAHIRUA

COACH
Loic AMISSE

OUT: Andre (Guingamp), Dalmat (Grenoble), Djemba Djemba (Manchester United), Laspalles (Guingamp), Makukula (Valladolid), Moldovan (Al Wahda, UAE), Rubil (Laval), Pauvert (released)

NICE

GOALKEEPERS
24 Damien GREGORINI
30 Hilaire MUNOZ
16 Bruno VALENCONY

DEFENDERS
13 Jacques ABARDONADO
19 Madjid BEN HADDOU (Alg)
Alcaly CAMARA (Sen)
3 Jose COBOS
Robin DESSERNE
Sebastien GIMENEZ
8 Noe PAMAROT
23 Thibault SCOTTO
17 Sammy TRAORE (Mli)
2 Cedric VARRAULT

MIDFIELDERS
26 Johan AUDEL
28 Oumar BAKARI (IvC)
27 Yoann BIGNE
10 Serge DIE (IvC)
5 EVERSON (Bra)
4 Jean-Paul KAMUDIMBA (DRC)
14 Romain PITAU
6 Eric ROY

FORWARDS
11 Georges BA (IvC)
7 Abdelmalek CHERRAD (Alg)
12 Bakary DIAKITE (Mli)
9 Lilian LASLANDES
25 Christophe MESLIN
20 Cedric MIONNET
Franck PADOVANI

COACH
Gernot ROHR (Ger)

OUT: Ayeli (Chateauroux), Berul (Lens), Berville (Gueugnon), Bigne (Rennes), Cinetti (Cremonese), Cirilli (Nimes), Diawara (PSG), Gagnier (Niort), Mane (released), Olufade (Lille), J-D Padovani (Cannes), Rodriguez (released), Tamazout (Cannes)

PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN

GOALKEEPERS
16 Jerome ALONZO
30 Mohamed BENHAMOU
1 Lionel LETIZI

DEFENDERS
27 Jean-Michel BADIANE
22 CRISTOBAL Parralo (Spa)
13 Eric CUBILIER
12 Talal EL-KARKOURI (Mor)
2 Gabriel HEINZE (Arg)
5 Bernard MENDY
15 PAULO CESAR Arruda (Bra)
24 Jose PIERRE-FANFAN
3 Lionel POTILLON

MIDFIELDERS
18 Selim BENACHOUR (Tun)
19 Lorik CANA (Alb)
6 Frederic DEHU
20 HUGO Miguel Ribeiro LEAL (Por)
4 Jerome LEROY
23 Modeste MBAMI (Cam)
27 Romain ROCCHI
10 Hakan YAKIN (Swi)

FORWARDS
Jose ALOISIO (Bra)
9 Martin CARDETTI (Arg)
7 Kaba DIAWARA
14 Fabrice FIORESE
Laurent LEROY
31 Chiguy LUCAU (DRC)
26 Bartholemew OGBECHE (Nig)
9 PAULETA (Por)
8 REINALDO (Bra)
25 Alioune TOURE

COACH
Vahid HALILHODZIC (Bos)

OUT: Andre Luiz (Corinthians), Cardetti (Valladolid), Cisse (Monaco), Cristobal (retired), Gillet (released), Pedron (Lens), Pochettino (Bordeaux), Ronaldinho (Barcelona), Stephan (Guingamp)

RENNES

GOALKEEPERS
1 Petr CECH (Cze)
16 Florent CHAIGNEAU

DEFENDERS
6 Dominique ARRIBAGE
13 Lamine DIATTA (Sen)
21 Jacques FATY
17 Francois GRENET
15 Arnaud LE LAN
Gabriel LOESCHBOR (Arg)
3 Abdelsalem OUADDOU (Mor)
27 Steven PELE
Jure PRIMORAC (Cro)

MIDFIELDERS
14 Cedric BARBOSA
4 Gregory BOURILLON
10 Philippe DELAYE
29 Etienne DIDOT
Olivier ECHOUAFNI
20 Andres FLEURQUIN (Uru)
27 Cyril JEUNECHAMP
22 Makhtar N'DIAYE (Sen)
7 Olivier SORLIN

FORWARDS
Jimmy BRIAND
Fabrice DO MARCOLINO (Gab)
23 Alexander FREI (Swi)
26 Georgi IVANOV (Bul)
19 Severino LUCAS (Bra)
11 Toifilou MAOULIDA
18 Olivier MONTERRUBIO
24 Stephane N'GUEMA (Gab)
9 Frederic PIQUIONNE
Mario Hector TURDO (Arg)

COACH
Laszlo BOLONI (Rom)

OUT: Barry Copa (Beveren), Bigne (Nice), Danic (Grenoble), Durand (released), Escude (Ajax), Jay (Grenoble), Le Bris (released), Meslin (Nice), Paisley (Sochaux), Reveillere (Lyon), Yapi (Como)

SOCHAUX

GOALKEEPERS
1 Gerard GNANHOUAN (IvC)
22 Alexandre MARTINOVIC
16 Teddy RICHERT

DEFENDERS
24 Virgile Jamel BOUMLAHA
27 Omar DAF (Sen)
21 Souleymane DIAWARA (Sen)
4 Maxence FLACHEZ
5 Sylvain MONSOREAU
3 Gregory PAISLEY
15 William QUEVEDO
19 Philippe RASCHKE
2 Ibrahim TALL (Sen)

MIDFIELDERS
8 Fabien BOUDARENE
7 Adel CHEDLI (Tun)
12 Mickael ISABEY
14 Johann LONFAT (Swi)
18 Guirane N'DAW (Sen)
10 Wilson ORUMA (Nig)
17 Benoit PEDRETTI
28 Marcelo TRAPASSO (Arg)

FORWARDS
20 Sigamary DIARRA
13 Pierre-Alain FRAU
25 Jeremy MATHIEU
9 Mickael PAGIS
11 Franciledo Dos SANTOS Lima (Bra)
29 Jaouad ZAIRI (Mor)

COACH
Guy LACOMBE

OUT: Chafni (Besancon), Daguet (Libourne), De Carvalho (Sedan), Domoraud (Le Mans), Manac'h (retired), Saveljic (Bastia), Tessali (Besancon)

STRASBOURG

GOALKEEPERS
30 Nicolas BONIS
1 Richard DUTRUEL
16 Vincent FERNANDEZ

DEFENDERS
23 Habib BEYE (Sen)
2 Yves DEROFF
15 Jean-Christophe DEVAUX
3 Mickael DORSIN (Swe)
6 Vaclav DROBNY (Cze)
5 Cedric KANTE (Mli)
27 Jacques MOHMA (Cam)
18 Nordine SAM

MIDFIELDERS
20 Yacine ABDESSADKI
4 Christian BASSILA
8 Pascal CAMADINI
22 Fabrice EHRET
21 Pontus FARNERUD (Swe)
24 Yannick FISCHER
7 David KOBYLIK (Cze)
14 Ulrich LE PEN
10 Corentin MARTINS
29 Fabrice VIAU

FORWARDS
13 Salim ARRACHE
28 Danijel LJUBOJA (Ser)
19 Cedric MOUKOURI
17 Eric MOULOUNGUI (Gab)
11 Mamadou NIANG (Sen)

COACH
Antoine KOMBOUARE

OUT: Bagayoko (Ajaccio), Bertin (Chateauroux), Debes (Grenoble), Eggimann (released), Ismael (Werder Bremen), Kornetzki (released), Laurent (retired), Mezriche (released), N'Gambi (Gueugnon), Pena (Porto), Roda (released)

TOULOUSE

GOALKEEPERS
16 Jeremie MOREAU
1 Christophe REVAULT

DEFENDERS
12 Lucien AUBEY (Con)
9 Issoumaila DAO (IvC)
13 Albin EBONDO
21 Othmane HAMAMA
7 Stephane LIEVRE
22 Aurelien MAZEL
2 Predrag OCOKOLJIC (Ser)
3 William PRUNIER
4 Mathieu PUIG

MIDFIELDERS
15 Christophe AVEZAC
14 Florent BALMONT
19 Henri BEDIMO Nsame (Cam)
6 Julien CARDY
5 Ludovic CLEMENT
11 Sylvain DIDOT
20 Achille EMANA (Cam)
8 Thibault GIRESSE
26 Ousmane N'DOYE (Sen)
18 Alaixys ROMAO
10 Nabil TAIDER

FORWARDS
17 Anthony BRAIZAT
23 Eduardo Adelino DA SILVA (Bra)
25 Nicolas DIEUZE
24 Cedric FAURE

COACH
Erick MOMBAERTE

OUT: Bancarel (retired), Chavas (Sete), Dubroca (released), Niflore (Cannes)

Bayern head the pack

Nick Bidwell on the Bundesliga starting grid

BAYER LEVERKUSEN

After coming within a whisker of relegation in May, the Bundesliga runners-up of 2001-02 cannot assume normal service at the top end of the table will be rapidly resumed. They still lack a proven goalscorer, Hans-Jorg Butt remains first choice in goal despite a number of errors last term, while rumours continue to circulate that key men such as Brazilian centre-back Lucio and midfield brains Bernd Schneider will be sold off. The all-out attacking football preached by former coaches Christoph Daum and Klaus Toppmoller is a thing of the past. Understandably for an ex-sweeper, new boss Klaus Augenthaler tends to be much more conservative.

BAYERN MUNICH

Seemingly able to secure another Bundesliga title last season without ever needing to move into top gear, Bayern boast strength in depth their domestic rivals can only dream of. In virtually every area of the field intense competition for starting places is the order of the day. ESM Golden Shoe winner Roy Makaay arrived from Deportivo La Coruna for £12m to head the strikeforce, new Argentinian centre-back Martin Demichelis (River Plate) must vie for a spot with Thomas Linke, Sammy Kuffour and Robert Kovac; young Germany left-back Tobias Rau, who recently arrived from Wolfsburg, has the unenviable task of unseating French veteran Bixente Lizarazu; while Owen Hargreaves, Jens Jeremies, fit-again Sebastian Deisler and two or three others are in the shake-up to play alongside the irreplaceable Michael Ballack in midfield.

However, there are some chinks in the Bavarian armour. Should keeper Oliver Kahn be injured, back-ups Michael Rensing and Jan Schlosser have no top flight experience and it is reasonable to assume that Bayern will be concentrating their efforts on the Champions League in the months ahead, anxious to make up for last year's early elimination.

Still undisputed No 1...Oliver Kahn

HOW THEY LINE UP

Kahn – Sagnol, Demichelis, Linke, Lizarazu – Hargreaves, Ballack, Salihamidzic, Ze Roberto – Pizarro, Makaay.

Coach Ottmar Hitzfeld has learnt the lesson of his team's Champions League embarrassment. Instead of the all-out attacking approach, he went back to basics, preaching defensive solidity to his back four, playing Ballack slightly deeper in central midfield and urging the second striker (Pizarro) to frequently work back. Although 4-5-1 is Hitzfeld's favoured system of the moment, his side have the flexibility to play in a number of shapes, the most common alternative being a three-pronged attack.

BOCHUM

Coach Peter Neururer is justifiably optimistic he has the players to improve on last season's ninth place. Frank Fahrenhorst and Cameroon's Raymond Kalla form a solid barrier in

Winging it...Bochum's Paul Freier is a national squad regular

Flying high...on-loan Flavio Conceicao is a quality addition to Dortmund ranks

central defence, Dariusz Wosz and Nigerian Sunday Oliseh provide the midfield experience, right-winger Paul Freier is now a German squad regular, and even though top scorer Thomas Christiansen has left for Hannover, ex-Bielefeld front-runner Mamadou Diabang is a promising replacement.

BORUSSIA DORTMUND

The club could be excused for thinking they have been cursed this summer. Midfielders Torsten Frings and Brazilian Evanilson both tore knee ligaments in pre-season and will be out for around six months; utility player Sebastian Kehl began the new season with a six-game domestic ban for pushing the referee in the League Cup Final defeat by Hamburg; keeper Jens Lehmann opted to join Arsenal; and in the first League game, French midfielder Guy Demel was carried off with a damaged cartilage.

Yet despite all the setbacks, Dortmund still have the means to meet coach Matthias Sammer's objective of at least a top-two finish. Lehmann's replacement, Roman Weidenfeller, is a fine prospect and will face competition from Frenchman Guillaume Warmuz, new Danish signing Niclas Jensen (ex-Manchester City) can play in defence or midfield and they have found a top-class locum for Frings in on-loan Brazilian Flavio Conceicao (Real Madrid). Central defender Christoph Metzelder is the new skipper.

HOW THEY LINE UP

Weidenfeller – Reuter, Worns, C Metzelder, Dede – Flavio Conceicao, Kehl, Ewerthon, Rosicky – Amoroso, Koller.

Coach Matthias Sammer likes to ring the changes, constantly switching from 4-4-2 (with Rosicky positioned wide left) to 4-3-3 (where Ewerthon plays as an out-and-out attacker and Rosicky takes a central playmaking role) to 3-4-3 (with Dede pushing into midfield). The 4-4-2 could be the most used this season, having the advantage of sparing Amoroso from the sort of harrying and chasing he is often loath to do.

BORUSSIA MONCHENGLADBACH

Gladbach have battled relegation in the past two seasons, and coach Ewald Lienen knows that markedly better results away from home are needed to ensure a more comfortable life. While Gladbach will miss Finnish striker Mikael Forssell, who returned to Chelsea after a highly-successful four-month stint, they believe they have enrolled another talented young front-man in Czech Vaclav Sverkos (Banik Ostrava).

EINTRACHT FRANKFURT

They could not have won promotion more dramatically, edging Mainz on goal difference in the final minute of the last weekend of the season. But while coach Willi Reimann has built a team of undoubted spirit, they do not have sufficient Bundesliga quality. The axis of their line-up remains central defender Jens Keller, midfielder Alexander Schur and German Under-21 attacker Jermaine Jones. New faces include South Korean midfielder or forward Cha Doo-ri, from Bielefeld, and Albanian centre-back Geri Cipi (Gent).

FREIBURG

A year after relegation, the Black Forest club return as Second Division champions. Provided they are not decimated by injuries as they were in their last unhappy top-flight campaign, an attack-oriented team featuring goalscoring Bosnian midfielder Zlatan Bajramovic, Georgian attacker Alexander Iashvili and new Dutch winger Ellery Cairo (Twente) should survive. Coach Volker Finke begins his 13th season at the helm.

HAMBURG

In charge of arguably the most improved team in the country, coach Kurt Jara enjoyed a good summer. Speculation that Iranian winger Mehdi Mahdavikia and Czech central defender Tomas Ujfalusi were leaving proved unfounded, while the squad was augmented by stopper Bastian Reinhardt (Bielefeld), and midfielders Stefan Beinlich (Hertha) and Alexander Meier (St Pauli). But Jara must beware over-optimism. Victory in the pre-season League Cup – beating Bayern Munich and Dortmund along the way – prompted some of his players to talk rashly of the title.

HANNOVER

National team striker Fredi Bobic's move to Hertha Berlin at the end of his loan spell left coach Ralf Rangnick with a huge void. But general manager Ricardo Moar persuaded Thomas Christiansen, the Bundesliga's joint top scorer last season, to sign on. He is likely to play alongside two players on loan from Leverkusen – Thomas Brdaric and Czech Jan Simak, whose goals and creativity helped Hannover gain promotion in 2001-02.

Added strength...Stefan Beinlich brings experience to Hamburg's midfield

HANSA ROSTOCK

Hansa spent much of last term fighting to stave off relegation, and the principle cause was a lack of punch in attack. They hope to have rectified the fault by recruiting prolific ex-1860 Munich striker Martin Max and a pair of international wide men – Dane Thomas Schultz (Farum) and Austria's Gernot Plassnegger (Wolfsburg). The club will also be hoping for another impressive season from Ghanaian defensive midfielder Godfried Aduobe.

HERTHA BERLIN

Hertha's goal is Champions League qualification, and to this end they will be placing their faith in a new strikeforce made up of renascent national team player Fredi Bobic and Pole Artur Wichniarek (Bielefeld). Croat Nico Kovac, a free transfer from Bayern Munich, will provide much-needed dynamism to midfield, but coach Huub Stevens still has problems to resolve, especially the frequent off-days of Brazilian playmaker Marcelinho and a rearguard and keeper prone to errors.

Striking asset...Hansa hope Thomas Schultz will help remedy a lack of punch

KAISERSLAUTERN

Although the Red Devils must start the season with a three-point penalty for failing to supply accurate information when re-applying for their professional licence, they look a good bet to end up in the European places. Under the astute eye of coach Eric Gerets, they performed splendidly in the second half of last season to pull themselves out of the relegation zone, and they have bought wisely this summer. In come Polish midfielder Kamil Kosowski (Wisla Krakow), Belgian defender Stijn Vreven (Utrecht) and midfielder Halil Altintop (Wattenscheid). The new campaign is a vital one for national team striker Miroslav Klose, whose goal touch has deserted him of late.

KOLN

Of the three promoted sides, Koln have shown by far the most ambition in the transfer market, buying a pair of Germany defenders in Jorg Heinrich (Borussia Dortmund) and Mustafa Dogan (Fenerbahce), defensive midfielder Sebastian Schindzielorz (Bochum) and Ukrainian front-man Andrii Voronin. The latter was the leading scorer in the Second Division last term with 20 goals for Mainz. But coach Friedhelm Funkel is already under pressure from fans and the media, accused of lacking charisma and adopting a dour style of play.

1860 MUNICH

The Lions are a team with a split personality, boasting the outstanding attacking spearhead of Markus Schroth and rising star Benjamin Lauth, but somewhat lacking at the back, where they have a reputation for ball-watching. Finnish defender Janne Saarinen (Rosenborg) and keeper Andre Lenz (Cottbus) are the most prominent of their new signings, while a player to watch could be homegrown right-sided full-back or midfielder Andreas Gorlitz.

Young Lion...Benjamin Lauth

SCHALKE

Inconsistent and ill-disciplined last term, Schalke have turned to former Bayern Munich and Real Madrid boss Jupp Heynckes to restore unity and purpose. While plumping for a high-profile coach, Schalke took a different tack in the transfer market, concentrating on promising young talent such as midfielders Hamit Altintop (Wattenscheid) – whose twin, Halil, is at Kaiserslautern – and Simon Cziommer (Twente), and teenage Brazilian defender Eduardo (Mirassol). But there was bad news for Heynckes in pre-season when international midfielder Jorg Bohme and the versatile Niels Oude

Kamphuis were ruled out for several months with knee ligament and groin injuries respectively.

STUTTGART

Now serving as both coach and general manager – such a dual role is almost unheard of in German football – Felix Magath won a major victory in persuading his board to substantially increase their transfer budget this summer, arguing that purse strings had to be loosened if they were to make a decent stab at the Champions League and build on last season's runners-up spot in the Bundesliga. Seven new signings arrived in town, including Hungarian attacker Imre Szabics (Sturm Graz), Brazilian striker Cacau (Nurnberg), Argentinian forward Emanuel Centurion (Velez Sarsfield) and midfielder Jurica Vranjes (Leverkusen).

While the newcomers gel, Magath will be hoping that brilliant homegrown youngsters such as striker Kevin Kuranyi and full-back Andreas Hinkel, as well as Belorussian midfielder Alexander Hleb, continue to shine.

The all-important question is how Stuttgart will fare now that their Bulgarian midfield strategist Krassimir Balakov has retired.

Stuttgart recruit...Jurica Vranjes

Wholehearted...midfielder Fabian Ernst's form will be key to Werder Bremen's fortunes

HOW THEY LINE UP

Hildebrand – Hinkel, Fernando Meira, Bordon, Gerber – Soldo, Vranjes, Tiffert, Hleb – Kuranyi, Amanatidis.

After starting last season with a 4-2-3-1 system, Magath successfully turned to a 4-4-2 in the New Year, and the coach has no reason to change this winning formula. Another option could be a 4-1-3-2, with a single defensive midfielder patrolling just in front of the back four and Hleb the pivotal figure in a trio of creative midfielders. Stuttgart's principal tactical weakness is undoubtedly the lack of genuine width in the attacking third.

WERDER BREMEN

The pre-season headlines were again hogged by the late arrival of Brazilian marksman Ailton, while central defender Valerien Ismael (Strasbourg), keeper Andreas Reinke (Murcia) and Turkish utility man Umit Davala (Galatasaray) joined on free transfers. If Johan Micoud and Fabian Ernst can hit the heights of last term, Werder will be a force, but they must kick the habit of beating the top guns and folding against lesser lights.

WOLFSBURG

Nothing less than a UEFA Cup place will be acceptable after paying £6.5m for River Plate and Argentina's much-vaunted young playmaker Andres D'Alessandro, who must now live up to the hype in his new European surroundings. Keeper Simon Jentzsch (1860 Munich) and striker Marko Topic (Cottbus) have also arrived, but coach Jurgen Rober will be praying injuries do not eat into an already small squad.

Names in bold italic are new signings

BAYER LEVERKUSEN

GOALKEEPERS

36 Rene ADLER
1 Hans-Jorg BUTT
20 Frank JURIC (Aus)
31 Tom STARKE

DEFENDERS

29 Jan-Ingwer CALLSEN-BRACKER
15 Ingo HERTZSCH
4 JUAN (Bra)
21 Radoslaw KALUZNY (Pol)
6 Teddy LUCIC (Swe)
3 LUCIO (Bra)
38 Alexander MEYER
5 Jens NOWOTNY
35 Diego PLACENTE (Arg)

MIDFIELDERS

19 Marko BABIC (Cro)
14 Hanno BALITSCH
10 Yildiray BASTURK (Tur)
13 Daniel BIEROFKA
17 Clemens FRITZ
2 Christoph PREUSS
28 Carsten RAMELOW
25 Bernd SCHNEIDER
26 Zoltan SEBESCEN

FORWARDS

9 Dimitar BERBATOV (Bul)
11 FRANCA (Bra)
27 Oliver NEUVILLE
7 Robson PONTE (Bra/Ita)

COACH

Klaus AUGENTHALER

OUT: Keine (Greuther Furth), El Kasmi (Duisburg), Ojigwe (Gladbach), Vranjes (Stuttgart), Brdaric, Simak (both loans from Hannover), Cris (Cruzeiro), Kirsten (coaching staff), Dogan (Ankaragucu), Zivkovic (Portsmouth), Dzaka (Osnabruck)

BAYERN MUNICH

GOALKEEPERS

1 Oliver KAHN
22 Michael RENSING
36 Jan SCHLOSSER

DEFENDERS

6 Martin DEMICHELIS (Arg)
5 Robert KOVAC (Cro)
4 Samuel Osei KUFFOUR (Gha)
30 Christian LELL
25 Thomas LINKE
3 Bixente LIZARAZU (Fra)
15 Tobias RAU
2 Willy SAGNOL (Fra)

MIDFIELDERS

13 Michael BALLACK
26 Sebastian DEISLER
32 Markus FEULNER
17 Thorsten FINK
23 Owen HARGREAVES (Eng)
16 Jens JEREMIES
20 Hasan SALIHAMIDZIC (Bos)
7 Mehmet SCHOLL
31 Bastian SCHWEINSTEIGER
11 ZE ROBERTO (Bra)

FORWARDS

9 Giovane ELBER (Bra)
10 Roy MAKAAY (Hol)
35 Zvjezdan MISIMOVIC (Ser)
14 Claudio PIZARRO (Per)
24 Roque SANTA CRUZ (Par)
34 Piotr TROCHOWSKI
21 Alexander ZICKLER

COACH

Ottmar HITZFELD

OUT: N Kovac (Hertha), Wessels (Koln), Tarnat (Man City), Dreher (retired)

BOCHUM

GOALKEEPERS

24 Toni TAPALOVIC (Cro)
1 Rein VAN DUUNHOVEN (Hol)
13 Christian VANDER

DEFENDERS

2 Michael BEMBEN
24 Philipp BONIG
5 Soren COLDING (Den)
15 Frank FAHRENHORST
6 Raymond KALLA (Cam)
3 Martin MEICHELBECK
12 Anton VRIESDE (Hol)

MIDFIELDERS

23 Cristian FIEL
17 Bjarni GUDJONSSON (Ice)
14 Thordur GUDJONSSON (Ice)
4 Sunday OLISEH (Nig)
18 Filip TAPALOVIC (Cro)
Alexander THAMM
10 Dariusz WOSZ
8 Tomasz ZDEBEL (Pol)

FORWARDS

21 Delron BUCKLEY (SAf)
19 Mamadou DIABANG (Sen)
7 Paul FREIER
16 Vahid HASHEMIAN (Irn)
9 Peter MADSEN (Den)

COACH

Peter NEURURER

OUT: Christiansen (Hannover 96), Graulund (AGF), Reis (Augsburg), Schindzielorz (Koln), Joppe (Union Berlin), Mandreko (released)

BORUSSIA DORTMUND

GOALKEEPERS

Guillaume WARMUZ (Fra)
1 Roman WEIDENFELLER

DEFENDERS

23 Ahmed Reda MADOUNI (Fra)
21 Christoph METZELDER
20 Malte METZELDER
7 Stefan REUTER
4 Christian WORNS

MIDFIELDERS

17 DEDE (Bra)
14 Guy DEMEL (Fra)
2 EVANILSON (Bra)
3 Juan Roman FERNANDEZ (Arg)
6 FLAVIO CONCEICAO (Bra)
8 Torsten FRINGS
15 Niclas JENSEN (Den)
5 Sebastian KEHL
16 LEANDRO (Bra)
18 Lars RICKEN
10 Tomas ROSICKY (Cze)

FORWARDS

19 Otto ADDO (Gha)
22 Marcio AMOROSO (Bra)
12 EWERTHON (Bra)
11 Heiko HERRLICH
9 Jan KOLLER (Cze)
24 David ODONKOR
13 Giuseppe REINA
25 Sahr SENESIE

COACH

Matthias SAMMER

OUT: Heinrich (Koln), Lehmann (Arsenal)

BORUSSIA MONCHENGLADBACH

GOALKEEPERS

33 Otto FREDRIKSON (Fin)
31 Michael MELKA
1 Jorg STIEL (Swi)

DEFENDERS

5 Sladan ASANIN (Cro)
3 Bradley CARNELL (SAf)
2 Max EBERL
4 Steffen KORELL
19 Bernd KORZYNIETZ
15 Marcelo Jose PLETSCH (Bra)
7 Jeff STRASSER (Lux)

MIDFIELDERS

6 Igor DEMO (Slk)
21 Markus HAUSWEILER
22 Oliver KIRCH
24 Peer KLUGE
18 Pascal OJIGWE (Nig)
16 Jan SCHLAUDRAFF
20 Andreas SPANN
8 Ivo ULICH (Cze)

FORWARDS

23 Lawrence AIDOO (Gha)
27 Marcel KETELAER
11 Joonas KOLKKA (Fin)
17 Morten SKOUBO (Den)
25 Vaclav SVERKOS (Cze)
10 Peter VAN HOUDT (Blg)
13 Joris VAN HOUT (Blg)
9 Arie VAN LENT

COACH

Ewald LIENEN

OUT: Forssell (Chelsea), Feigenhauer (Ahlen), Kuntzel (Bielefeld), Baumer (Preussen Munster), Kamps (retired), Stassin, Witeczek, Munch

EINTRACHT FRANKFURT

GOALKEEPERS

30 Andreas MENGER
1 Oka NIKOLOV (Mac)
22 Markus PROLL

DEFENDERS

13 Uwe BINDEWALD
26 Geri CIPI (Alb)
18 Baldo DI GREGORIO
2 Sven GUNTHER
5 Jens KELLER
15 Jurica PULJIZ (Cro)
23 Jean-Clotaire TSOUMOU-MADZA (Con)
4 Andree WIEDENER

MIDFIELDERS

3 Henning BURGER
17 Daniyel CIMEN
19 Mehmet DRAGUSHA (Alb)
25 Alexander HUBER
16 Markus KREUZ
8 Stefan LEXA (Aut)
6 David MONTERO (Spa)
24 Alexander SCHUR
7 Ervin SKELA (Alb)
21 Lars WEISSENFELDT

FORWARDS

20 Markus BEIERLE
9 CHA Doo-ri (SKo)
10 Nico FROMMER
14 Franciel HENGEMUHLE (Bra)
11 Jermaine JONES

COACH

Willi REIMANN

OUT: Streit (Wolfsburg), Diakite (Nice), Vivian (Gremio), Wenczel (Augsburg), Branco, Kryszalowicz

FREIBURG

GOALKEEPERS

1 Richard GOLZ
36 Julian REINARD
24 Timo REUS

DEFENDERS

17 Boubacar DIARRA (Mli)
16 Lars HERMEL
5 Oumar KONDE (Swi)
13 Stefan MULLER
2 Daniel SCHUMANN

MIDFIELDERS

12 Roda ANTAR (Leb)
6 Zlatan BAJRAMOVIC (Bos)
15 Bruno BERNER (Swi)
18 Vladimir BUT (Rus)
10 Soumaila COULIBALY (Mli)
34 Jurgen GJASULA
20 Rolf-Christel GUIE-MIEN (Con)
32 Torge HOLLMANN
26 Jan MANNER
22 Sascha RIETHER
7 Levan TSKITISHVILI (Geo)
29 Tobias WILLI
4 Andreas ZEYER

FORWARDS

8 Ellery CAIRO (Hol)
9 Alexander IASHVILI (Geo)
11 Dennis KRUPPKE
14 Abder RAMDANE (Fra)
33 Ibrahim TANKO (Gha)

COACH

Volker FINKE

OUT: Anicic (Darmstadt), Kobiashvili (Schalke), Kruse (Duisburg)

HAMBURG

GOALKEEPERS

1 Martin PIECKENHAGEN
29 Stefan WACHTER

DEFENDERS

18 Milan FUKAL (Cze)
5 Nico-Jan HOOGMA (Hol)
12 Lars JACOBSEN (Den)
24 Stephan KLING
2 Marcel MALTRITZ
4 Bastian REINHARDT
15 Bjorn SCHLICKE
21 Tomas UJFALUSI (Cze)

MIDFIELDERS

22 Stefan BEINLICH
16 Collin BENJAMIN (Nam)
28 Fabian BROCKER
27 Rodolfo CARDOSO (Arg)
20 Bernd HOLLERBACH
31 Alexander LAAS
17 Alexander MEIER
3 Christian RAHN
6 Raphael WICKY (Swi)

FORWARDS

10 Sergej BARBAREZ (Bos)
7 Mehdi MAHDAVIKIA (Irn)
9 Bernardo ROMEO (Arg)
30 Eren SEN
33 Christian STREIT
32 Naohiro TAKAHARA (Jap)

COACH

Kurt JARA (Aut)

OUT: Albertz (Shanghai Shenhua), Antar (Freiburg), Baur (Pasching), Christensen (Twente), Groth (Lubeck), Heinz (Banik Ostrava), Hertzsch (Leverkusen), Hillenbrand (Hoffenheim), Ketelaar (Gladbach), Kitzbichler (Austria Wien), Ledesma, Meijer (Aachen)

HANNOVER 96

GOALKEEPERS
30 Daniel HAAS
1 Gerhard TREMMEL
25 Marc ZIEGLER

DEFENDERS
6 Steve CHERUNDOLO (USA)
4 Dame DIOUF (Sen)
24 Kostas KONSTANTINIDIS (Gre)
29 Per MERTESACKER
34 Nils PFINGSTEN
Thomas SCHNEIDER
2 VINICIUS (Bra)
3 Dariusz ZURAW (Pol)

MIDFIELDERS
5 Christoph DABROWSKI
22 Julian DE GUZMAN (Can)
17 Nebojsa KRUPNIKOVIC (Ser)
8 Altin LALA (Alb)
35 Bjorn LINDEMANN
27 Silvio SCHRÖTER
20 Jan SIMAK (Cze)
18 Danijel STEFULJ (Cro)

FORWARDS
13 Thomas BRDARIC
9 Thomas CHRISTIANSEN (Spa)
7 Mohammadou IDRISSOU (Cam)
14 Jiri KAUFMAN (Cze)
36 Aleksandar KOTULJAC
19 Babacar N'DIAYE (Sen)
23 Blaise N'KUFO (Swi)
10 Jiri STAJNER (Cze)
11 Daniel STENDEL

COACH
Ralf RANGNICK

OUT: Bobic (Hertha), Casey (Karlsruhe), Jaime (Dep La Coruna), Nehrbauer (Saarbrucken), Oswald (Duisburg), Sievers, Linke, Popescu, Van Hintum, Ochs

HANSA ROSTOCK

GOALKEEPERS
25 Carsten BUSCH
21 Daniel KLEWER
1 Mathias SCHOBER

DEFENDERS
20 Delano HILL (Hol)
8 Jochen KIENTZ
3 Michal KOVAR (Cze)
6 Ronald MAUL
18 Gabriel MELKAM (Nig)
12 Uwe MOHRLE
2 Razundara TJIKUZU (Nam)
23 Gerd WIMMER (Aut)

MIDFIELDERS
4 Godfried ADUOBE (Gha)
22 Kevin HANSEN
17 Marcus LANTZ (Swe)
10 Thomas MEGGLE
14 Joakim PERSSON (Swe)
28 Gernot PLASSNEGGER (Aut)
7 Rene RYDLEWICZ
27 Thomas SCHULTZ (Den)

FORWARDS
15 Magnus ARVIDSSON (Swe)
19 Antonio DI SALVO (Ita)
9 Martin MAX
11 Rade PRICA (Swe)
30 Marco VORBECK

COACH
Armin VEH

OUT: Hirsch (Duisburg), Jakobsson (Brondby), Schied (Osnabruck), Wibran (Osters), Salou

HERTHA BERLIN

GOALKEEPERS
12 Christian FIEDLER
1 Gabor KIRALY (Hun)
40 Tomasz KUSZCZAK (Pol)

DEFENDERS
28 Sofian CHAHED
29 Malik FATHI
3 Arne FRIEDRICH
21 Michael HARTMANN
22 Denis LAPACZINSKI
17 Alexander MADLUNG
33 Marko REHMER
14 Josip SIMUNIC (Cro)
4 Dick VAN BURIK (Hol)

MIDFIELDERS
18 Pal DARDAI (Hun)
8 Bart GOOR (Blg)
7 Bartosz KARWAN (Pol)
5 Niko KOVAC (Cro)
25 Alexander LUDWIG
10 MARCELINHO (Bra)
32 Thorben MARX
27 Alexander MLADENOV (Bul)
20 Andreas NEUENDORF
16 Roberto PINTO (Por)
19 Andreas SCHMIDT

FORWARDS
13 Fredi BOBIC
9 LUIZAO (Bra)
24 Nando RAFAEL (Ang)
11 Artur WICHNIAREK (Pol)

COACH
Huub STEVENS (Hol)

OUT: Alex Alves (At. Mineiro), Beinlich (Hamburg), Maas (Duisburg), Kohler (Rot-Weiss Essen), Preetz, Sverrisson, Nedzipi (Wolfsburg), Nene, Tretschok

KAISERSLAUTERN

GOALKEEPERS
27 Thomas ERNST
1 Tim WIESE

DEFENDERS
34 Petr GABRIEL (Cze)
5 Thomas HENGEN
4 Aleksander KNAVS (Sln)
2 Herve Nzelo LEMBI (DRC)
6 Hany RAMZY (Egy)
26 Torsten REUTER
3 Bill TCHATO (Cam)
16 Stijn VREVEN (Blg)

MIDFIELDERS
19 Halil ALTINTOP (Tur)
18 Markus ANFANG
15 Nenad BJELICA (Cro)
20 Jose DOMINGUEZ (Por)
8 Dimitrios GRAMMOZIS (Gre)
7 Marian HRISTOV (Bul)
30 Kamil KOSOWSKI (Pol)
25 Michael LEHMANN
10 LINCOLN (Bra)
28 Stefan MALZ
24 Mika NURMELA (Fin)
23 Thomas RIEDL
13 Ciriaco SFORZA (Swi)
33 Patrick WITTICH

FORWARDS
11 Miroslav KLOSE
9 Vratislav LOKVENC (Cze)
21 Michael MIFSUD (Mlt)
14 Selim TEBER
22 Christian TIMM

COACH
Eric GERETS (Blg)

OUT: Basler (Al Rayan), Ratinho (Shenyang), H Koch (Ein. Trier), Adzic (Lubeck), Klos, G Koch

KOLN

GOALKEEPERS
16 Alexander BADE
32 Vyacheslav SOKOLOV (Rus)
33 Stefan WESSELS

DEFENDERS
20 Thomas CICHON
2 Carsten CULLMANN
22 Mustafa DOGAN
5 Markus HAPPE
17 Jorg HEINRICH
12 Oliver SCHRODER
4 Moses SICHONE (Zam)

MIDFIELDERS
13 Giovanni FEDERICO (Ita)
7 Florian KRINGE
30 Dirk LOTTNER
14 Efangelos NESSOU (Gre)
32 Michael NIEDRIG
21 Sebastian SCHINDZIELORZ
6 Andrew SINKALA (Zam)
15 Christian SPRINGER
3 Alexander VOIGT

FORWARDS
11 Markus DWORRAK
25 Marius EBBERS
9 Sebastian HELBIG
8 Matthias SCHERZ
10 Andrii VORONIN (Ukr)

COACH
Friedhelm FUNKEL

OUT: Kioyo (1860 Munich), Kreuz, Proll (both Ein. Frankfurt), Kurth (Duisburg), Zellweger (St Gallen), Arveladze

1860 MUNICH

GOALKEEPERS
1 Michael HOFMANN
29 Matthias KUFNER
22 Andre LENZ

DEFENDERS
7 Rodrigo COSTA (Bra)
44 Torben HOFFMANN
16 Joseph KENDRICK (Ire)
4 Marco KURZ
3 Remo MEYER (Swi)
5 Janne SAARINEN (Fin)
2 Martin STRANZL (Aut)

MIDFIELDERS
24 Daniel BAIER
17 Daniel BORIMIROV (Bul)
13 Harald CERNY (Aut)
23 Andreas GORLITZ
19 Matthias LEHMANN
12 Danny SCHWARZ
8 SHAO Jiayi (Chn)
6 Roman TYCE (Cze)
20 Markus WEISSENBERGER (Aut)
14 Michael WIESINGER

FORWARDS
18 Paul AGOSTINO (Aus)
9 Francis KIOYO (Cam)
11 Benjamin LAUTH
25 Christophe LEPOINT (Blg)
26 Marcus PURK (Aut)
27 Marcel RICHTER
21 Markus SCHROTH

COACH
Falko GOTZ

OUT: Jentzsch (Wolfsburg), Pfuderer (Union Berlin), Max (Hansa Rostock), Rafael (Nurnberg), Ehlers (Augsburg), Cescutti (Unterhaching), Suker (retired), Hassler, Votava

SCHALKE

GOALKEEPERS
33 Christofer HEIMEROTH
27 Oliver RECK
1 Frank ROST
29 Volkan UNLU (Tur)

DEFENDERS
13 EDUARDO (Bra)
6 Tomasz HAJTO (Pol)
3 Anibal MATELLAN (Arg)
18 Niels OUDE KAMPHUIS (Hol)
4 Dario RODRIGUEZ (Uru)
12 Marco VAN HOOGDALEM (Hol)
2 Nico VAN KERCKHOVEN (Blg)
15 Tomasz WALDOCH (Pol)

MIDFIELDERS
9 Hamit ALTINTOP (Tur)
8 Jorg BOHME
24 Simon CZIOMMER
16 Kristijan DJORDJEVIC (Ser)
5 Sven KMETSCH
7 Levan KOBIASHVILI (Geo)
31 Sergio PINTO (Por)
20 Christian POULSEN (Den)
23 Jochen SEITZ
35 Filip TROJAN (Cze)
10 Gustavo VARELA (Uru)
17 Sven VERMANT (Blg)

FORWARDS
22 Victor AGALI (Nig)
14 Gerald ASAMOAH
26 Mike HANKE
21 Emile MPENZA (Blg)
11 Ebbe SAND (Den)

COACH
Jupp HEYNCKES

OUT: Wilmots (retired), Lamotte, Moller

STUTTGART

GOALKEEPERS
31 Diego BENAGLIO (Swi)
23 Dirk HEINEN
1 Timo HILDEBRAND

DEFENDERS
5 Marcelo Jose BORDON (Bra)
29 Steffen DANGELMAYR
6 FERNANDO MEIRA (Por)
12 Heiko GERBER
2 Andreas HINKEL
21 Philipp LAHM
4 RUI Manuel MARQUES (Por)
24 Michael RUNDIO
14 Thomas SCHNEIDER
3 Timo WENZEL

MIDFIELDERS
30 Denis BERGER (Aut)
16 Horst HELDT
15 Alexander HLEB (Bls)
7 Silvio MEISSNER
25 Michael MUTZEL
20 Zvonimir SOLDO (Cro)
Ivan STOIANOV (Bul)
8 Jurica VRANJES (Cro)

FORWARDS
11 Ioannis AMANATIDIS (Gre)
18 CACAU (Bra)
Emanuel CENTURION (Arg)
22 Kevin KURANYI
19 Imre SZABICS (Hun)
13 Christian TIFFERT

COACH
Felix MAGATH

OUT: Ernst (Kaiserslautern), Carnell (Gladbach), Dundee (Austria Wien), Seitz (Schalke), Balakov (coaching staff), Todt (retired), Ganea (Bursaspor), Adrion (Ein. Braunschweig)

WERDER BREMEN

GOALKEEPERS
16 Pascal BOREL
1 Andreas REINKE
31 Alexander WALKE

DEFENDERS
6 Frank BAUMANN
34 Manuel FRIEDRICH
25 Valerien ISMAEL (Fra)
20 Mladen KRSTAJIC (Ser)

MIDFIELDERS
11 Ivica BANOVIC (Cro)
36 Stefan BECKERT
24 Tim BOROWSKI
2 Fabian ERNST
37 Christian LENZE
8 Krisztian LISZTES (Hun)
23 Ludovic MAGNIN (Swi)
10 Johan MICOUD (Fra)
22 Marco REICH
26 Simon ROLFES
27 Christian SCHULZ
19 Victor SKRYPNYK (Ukr)
7 Paul STALTERI (Can)
5 UMIT Davala (Tur)
21 Holger WEHLAGE

FORWARDS
32 AILTON (Bra)
18 Markus DAUN
38 Nelson HAEDO VALDEZ (Par)
9 Angelos HARISTEAS (Gre)
7 Ivan KLASNIC (Cro)
35 Marco STIER

COACH
Thomas SCHAAF

OUT: Tjikuzu (Hansa Rostock), Verlaat (Austria Wien), Wierzchowski (Wisla Plock), Barten

WOLFSBURG

GOALKEEPERS
29 Simon JENTZSCH
40 Patrick PLATINS
12 Sead RAMOVIC
1 Claus REITMAIER

DEFENDERS
13 Marino BILISKOV (Cro)
33 Maik FRANZ
20 Mirko HRGOVIC (Bos)
4 Kim MADSEN (Den)
2 Pablo QUATTROCCHI (Arg)
19 Thomas RYTTER (Den)
5 Stefan SCHNOOR

MIDFIELDERS
24 Charles AKONNOR (Gha)
10 Andres D'ALESSANDRO (Arg)
37 Karsten FISCHER
27 Miroslav KARHAN (Slk)
41 Cedric MAKIADI
23 Sven MULLER
8 Dorinel MUNTEANU (Rom)
30 Nderim NEDZIPI (Mac)
31 Hans SARPEI (Gha)
18 Albert STREIT
6 Pablo THIAM (Gui)
7 Patrick WEISER

FORWARDS
32 Michal JANICKI (Pol)
9 Diego KLIMOWICZ (Spa)
11 Tomislav MARIC (Cro)
21 Martin PETROV (Bul)
22 Roy PRAGER
39 Christian RITTER
14 Marko TOPIC (Bos)

COACH
Jurgen ROBER

OUT: Rau (Bayern), Plassnegger (Hansa Rostock), Ponte (Leverkusen), Greiner (retired), P Madsen (Bochum), Effenberg (Al Arabi, Qat)

Chasing eight in a row

Lou Economopoulos on the big challenge facing champions Olympiakos

OLYMPIAKOS

Can they claim their eighth straight championship? With nine newcomers to the squad, Olympiakos, under Ukrainian coach Oleg Protasov, are certainly up for the challenge, together with a fresh assault on the Champions League.

International midfielders Pantelis Kafes and Georgios Georgiadis have joined from PAOK Salonika. Together with Cypriot Costas Charalambidis, they are expected to fill the big gap left by the departure of Stelios Giannakopoulos to Bolton.

Poland striker Marcin Kuzba has signed a one-year contract and is expected to lead the attack alongside Lambros Choutos, who was very impressive in pre-season games.

Going for goals...Panathinaikos' new striker Dimitrios Papadopoulos

HOW THEY LINE UP

Eleftheropoulos – Mavrogenidis, Venetidis, Antzas, Vallas – Karembeu, Djordjevic, Georgiadis, Stoltidis – Giovanni, Kuzba.

PANATHINAIKOS

New coach Itzhak Schum has lost last term's League top scorer, Nikos Limberopoulos, to AEK Athens and international midfielder Giorgios Karagounis to Internazionale, but has picked up enough talent to give Panathinaikos high hopes of overthrowing Olympiakos and repeating last season's good showing in the Champions League.

Croatian midfielder Silvio Maric has signed a two-year deal, and the club have also bought promising Romanian striker Lucian Sanmartean and Dimitrios Papadopoulos, top scorer for the Greek Under-21s, from English First Division club Burnley.

Other signings were South African international defender Nasief Morris, German Markus Munch and Cameroon midfielder Joel Epalle, the latter from financially-troubled Aris Salonika.

HOW THEY LINE UP

Nikopolidis – Seitaridis, Fissas, Kyrgiakos, Henriksen – Epalle, Maric, Basinas, Sanmartean – Papadopoulos, Olisadebe.

AEK ATHENS

Prolific striker Demis Nikolaidis has moved to Atletico Madrid but the arrival of Pana's Nikos Limberopoulos should more than compensate. AEK coach Dusan Bayevic has also recruited Cyprus forward Yiannakis Okkas.

HOW THEY LINE UP

Chiotis – Borbokis, Lakis, Kasapis, Kapsis – Tsartas, Katsouranis, Maladenis, Georgatos – Ivic, Okkas.

AND THE REST...

Financially-troubled **PAOK** did not do much shopping in their preparations for the new season and UEFA Cup campaign, but still landed Panathinaikos's international defender Leonidas Vokolos.

PANIONIOS, also in the UEFA Cup, signed Czech defender Petr Vlcek and Serb defender Miko Smiljanic, as well as Brazilian Guiliano Dos Santos, Hungarian Norbert Toth and Uruguayan Juan Martin Parodi.

ARIS have lost coach Giorgos Firos and president Sotiris Karamberis, who resigned due to the financial problems plaguing the club. Supporters have been raising funds to help keep the club in the First Division. The only new signing is veteran Costas Fratzeskos.

IRAKLIS captured Greece striker Nikos Machlas, who has played the last seven years in Holland, including a spell with Ajax, as well as Polish defender Miroslaw Sznaucner of Katowice and midfielder Cezary Kucharski (Legia Warsaw).

OFI CRETE have added Cypriot striker Marios Neofitos, who last year scored 33 goals for Anorthosis.

XANTHI signed Slovakia midfielder Miroslav Drobnjak as well as picking up Argentinian midfielder Ramon Antonio Ortiz from Huracan and Chilean midfielders Dante Poli Garcia and Roberto Ketlun.

AKRATITOS are expecting a boost in defence from newly-acquired 23-year-old Tasos Venetis, who has played four seasons in Scotland with Dundee United.

IONIKOS have signed Argentinian defender Paulo Cesar Perez from Poland's Widzew Lodz.

HALKIDONA, under veteran coach Giorgos Parashos, are in the top division for the first time after winning the Second Division last season. They will rely heavily on local talent.

PANILIAKOS, the other promoted club, return to the top flight after a two-year absence and will take their chances with the same line-up that took them up.

Champions...but will Kezman and Van Bommel be around to see another title?

PSV set the standards

The champions are the team to beat, says Klaas-Jan Droppert

PSV EINDHOVEN

PSV are strong favourites to retain the title, especially now their rivals have lost several key players. Holding on to Serb striker Mateja Kezman (35 goals last season) and talented winger Arjen Robben, as well as the return of injury-prone central defender Kevin Hofland, will be a major boost for coach Guus Hiddink. However, the likely departure of skipper Mark Van Bommel is a blow.

Hiddink, who turned down an approach from Barcelona, wanted reinforcements to mount a serious campaign in Europe. But the money is not there and PSV have too many mediocre players on lucrative long-term contracts who cannot be sold on. Hiddink is keen to exploit his connection with South Korea but will have to wait for finances to improve before he can make any major purchases.

HOW THEY LINE UP

Waterreus – Bogelund, Ooijer, Hofland, Lee – Van Bommel, Vogel – Rommedahl, Park, Robben – Kezman.

AJAX

As last season, PSV's main rivals. Coach Ronald Koeman, who was a hot favourite to join Barcelona, decided to honour his contract, but was hoping his players would stay as well. Skipper Cristian Chivu (Roma), Andy Van der Meyde (Inter), Ahmed 'Mido' Hossam (Marseille), Nikos Machlas (Iraklis) and Richard Witschge have all left, however, although the latter three were on Koeman's recommendation.

Chivu, in particular, will be sorely missed, since he was Koeman's key player. There are doubts about whether Julien Escude (Rennes), Zdenek Grygera (Sparta Prague), Wesley Sonck (Genk) and Nicolae Mitea (Dinamo Bucharest) will be adequate replacements.

However, in Wesley Sneijder, Steven Pienaar and Nigel De Jong, Ajax still possess highly-talented youngsters. Important roles will be given to Rafael Van der Vaart and Jari Litmanen, providing they stay fit.

HOW THEY LINE UP

Lobont – Trabelsi, Grygera, Escude, Maxwell – Galasek, Litmanen, Van der Vaart – Pienaar, Ibrahimovic, Sonck.

FEYENOORD

A wind of change is blowing through the De Kuip stadium, but whether it will bring success remains to be seen. After a trophyless season, Feyenoord got rid of leading scorer Pierre Van Hooijdonk (Fenerbahce), Paul Bosvelt (Manchester City), Brett Emerton (Blackburn) and Bonaventure Kalou (Auxerre). A risky development. After all, they are highly-experienced players who formed the backbone of the team that won the UEFA Cup in 2002. Van Hooijdonk and Bosvelt apparently no longer saw eye-to-eye with coach Bert Van Marwijk – and when his contract was extended, it was clear they would be on their way.

However, if the likes of Shinji Ono, Thomas Buffel and Patrick Paauwe emerge as new leaders, Feyenoord could close the gap on PSV and Ajax.

Denny Landzaat (Willem II), Egyptian Hossam Ghali, Dirk Kuijt (Utrecht), Danko Lazovic (Partizan Belgrade), Alfred Schreuder (NAC), Jean (Atletico Paranaense), Peter Van den Berg (RKC) and Kalou's brother Salomon are the new boys.

AND THE REST...

The pairing of Gerald Sibon and Richard Knopper (on loan from Ajax) could do the trick for **HEERENVEEN**, who along with **RODA JC** appear the best bets to challenge for UEFA Cup spots.

There are no changes at **NEC** so coach Johan Neeskens can continue his good work of last season. **NAC** have an attractive side but will miss the experience of coach Henk ten Cate, now Frank Rijkaard's assistant at Barcelona. **RKC'S** squad lacks depth, especially an understudy for top scorer Rick Hoogendorp.

It will probably be another anonymous season for **AZ** and **WILLEM II**, while **UTRECHT**, **TWENTE** and **VITESSE**, who used to form the second tier below the Big Three, need to be careful to avoid finishing at the wrong end of the table.

GRONINGEN and **RBC** should be able to avoid relegation, but **ZWOLLE** and newly-promoted **DEN HAAG** and **VOLENDAM** are the strong candidates to fill the relegation play-off places and the bottom spot.

Ajax recruit...Julien Escude

Lazio threaten top three

Paddy Agnew on the runners and riders for the Serie A season

Old hand...Beppe Signori is still key to Bologna's hopes

ANCONA

Twelve years after winning a historic first-ever promotion to Serie A, little Ancona are back for only their second season in the top flight. Their return has not been without controversy since they opted to ditch promotion-winning coach Gigi Simoni (Ronaldo's first coach at Internazionale) and replace him with a debutant, Leonardo Menichini, formerly No 2 to veteran Carlo Mazzone at Brescia.

At the time of writing, Ancona had signed no fewer than 19 new players including such journeymen as 36-year-old striker Dario Hubner (Piacenza), Swedish midfielder Daniel Andersson (Chievo), midfielders Eusebio Di Francesco (Piacenza) and Daniele Berretta (Atalanta), and defender Mauro Milanese (Perugia). It remains to be seen if the experience of such 'old hands' can compensate for Menichini's inexperience and keep Ancona in Serie A.

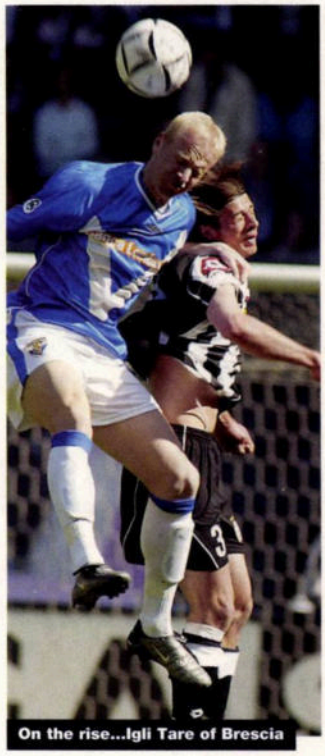
BOLOGNA

With canny coach Francesco Guidolin still at the helm and with such players as Argentinian striker Julio Cruz, playmaker Tomas Locatelli and 35-year-old talisman Beppe Signori (not without difficulties) still in the squad, Bologna could do better than last season's 11th-place finish. The arrival of striker Fausto Rossini (Atalanta), midfielders Fabio Pecchia (Como), Argentinian Andres Guglielminpietro (Inter) and Samuele Dalla Bona (Milan) will do no harm.

Guidolin's biggest problem could be the replacement of departing defenders Guilio Falcone (Sampdoria), Marco Zanchi (Juventus) and Michele Paramatti (Reggiana). A UEFA Cup finish with this squad will represent an excellent result.

BRESCIA

The departure of veteran coach Carlo Mazzone (replaced by last season's Modena coach, Giovanni De Biase), midfielder Stephan Appiah (Juventus), striker Luca Toni (Palermo) and keeper Matteo Sereni (Lazio), not to mention the still-possible exit of 'Little Prince' Roberto Baggio,


On the rise...Igli Tare of Brescia

would suggest that Brescia will struggle to refind last season's impressive form, when they finished ninth in the table.

If Baggio, currently recovering from surgery on his knee, does return to play with Brescia, he will find himself alongside familiar names in the Filippini twins in midfield and Albanian Igli Tare in attack as well as an unfamiliar name in Danish striker Marc Nygaard (Excelsior).

Teen star...Inter Nigerian Obafemi Martins

CHIEVO

The good news for 'miracle team' Chievo is that for the second consecutive summer they have held on to their talented coach Gigi Del Neri, a man seemingly destined for bigger things. The less fortunate news, however, is that they have lost four important individuals in playmaker Eugenio Corini (Palermo), defender Nicola Legrottaglie (Juventus), goalkeeper Cristiano Lupatelli (Roma) and Brazilian winger Luciano (Inter).

Such is Del Neri's skill that, with the help of new boys such as Under-21 international striker Giuseppe Sculli (Modena) and experienced midfielder Roberto Baronio (Perugia), he may well once again build a side that can compete with the best.

EMPOLI

Despite finishing in the relegation zone on joint fourth-last along with Modena, Reggina and Atalanta, Empoli managed to avoid the drop thanks to the Serie A system of 'inverted classification'. That was not enough to save coach Silvio Baldini, who has been replaced by his No 2, former Empoli player Fabio Baldini (no relation).

The new man has lost talented striker Marco Boriello (back to Milan) but can be grateful that Empoli have held on to Italian international Antonio Di Natale. A repeat of last season's narrow escape, however, could prove too difficult for Empoli.

INTERNAZIONALE

Remarkably, Inter's Argentinian coach Hector Cuper has survived the disappointment of a 'nearly, nearly' season marked by a Champions League semi-final elimination by city cousins Milan and a second-place Serie A finish.

Even more remarkably, he has had his position endorsed by a transfer campaign carried out in accordance with his wishes. Dutchman Andy Van Der Meyde (Ajax) and Brazilian Luciano (Chievo) will add attacking width to midfield, while experienced French midfielder Sabri Lamouchi (Parma) will add defensive bite.

Given that Cuper still has such talented individuals at his disposal as Italian international Cristiano Zanetti, Turk Emre Belozoglu and Argentinian Matias Almeyda in midfield, not to mention Argentinian captain Javier Zanetti in defence and Christian Vieri, Argentinian Hernan Crespo, Uruguayan Alvaro Recoba and 18-year-old Nigerian star Obafemi Martins in attack, then Inter look an extremely competitive side, on paper at least.

Inter's biggest problems, however, will almost certainly not be linked to their squad strength but rather to their coach's over-cautious, defensive attitude which has often caused the team to fail to perform as a coherent collective. Cuper knows only too well that he cannot afford a third season without success. That consideration, plus the hunger of players such as Crespo and Vieri, mean that Inter are likely to be championship contenders right to the wire.

HOW THEY LINE UP

Toldo – J Zanetti, Cordoba, Materazzi, Coco – Van der Meyde, C Zanetti, Emre, Luciano – Vieri, Crespo.

Cuper remains a strict 4-4-2 man but new signings Van der Meyde and Luciano give the coach additional wide options in midfield that may help him overcome his over-defensive leanings.

JUVENTUS

Having won a second consecutive League title (27th overall) last season, one might have expected Juventus to go easy in the transfer market. On the contrary, however, the Old Lady has conducted arguably the most astute campaign of all the championship contenders, buying a handsome trio of players in defender Nicola Legrottaglie (Chievo), Ghana midfielder Stephan Appiah (Brescia) and striker Fabrizio Miccoli (back from loan to Perugia). With all the major protagonists of last season (Nedved, Thuram, Camoranesi, Tacchinardi, Davids, Del Piero, Trezeguet, as well as coach Marcello Lippi) still in place, Juventus look stronger than ever.

Our only reservation about Juventus is linked to the fact that, in the wake of that Champions League Final defeat by Milan, they may be tempted to save their best efforts for European rather than domestic competition.

HOW THEY LINE UP

Buffon – Thuram, Montero, Tudor, Pessotto – Davids, Tacchinardi – Miccoli, Del Piero, Nedved – Trezeguet.

The return of Miccoli from his loan at Perugia gives coach Lippi another option in attack, and he could switch to a 4-2-3-1 formation based around Trezeguet as the lone striker.

Wave goodbye...Cristiano Lupatelli has left Chievo for Roma

LAZIO

Of all the big names, none has had a more difficult summer (for the second consecutive year) than Lazio.

The Roman club's transfer activity has been handicapped both by the consistent interest shown by Milan and Inter in Dutch defender Jaap Stam and the long-drawn-out negotiations re the Udinese trio of Chilean playmaker David Pizarro, Brazilian defender Alberto and Danish midfielder Martin Jorgensen.

The resolution (finally) of the club's much-discussed financial problems would suggest that, in the end, coach Roberto Mancini will both keep his man (Stam) and get his man (Pizarro), two players fundamental to his plans and ambitions.

If that proves to be the case, then stand by for some fireworks from Lazio, who have also held on to key players such as Serb midfielder Dejan Stankovic, Argentinian striker Claudio Lopez and Italian international Stefano Fiore, while acquiring the likes of Frenchman Ousmane Dabo (Atalanta) and the highly experienced Demetrio Albertini (Atietico Madrid). A repeat of last season's sparkling football could well be on the cards.

Full flow...Edgar Davids for Juve

Staying put...Stam's still at Lazio

HOW THEY LINE UP

Peruzzi – Oddo, Stam, Mihajlovic, Favalli – Sergio Conceicao, Albertini, Fiore, Claudio Lopez – Corradi, Inzaghi.

Another side who could switch to 4-2-3-1, with new boy Corradi as the lone striker.

LECCE

Lecce are honorary members of the 'yo-yo' club, namely those teams who spend their time spinning up and down between Serie A and B.

Relegated from Serie A 12 months ago, Lecce have bounced straight back to the top division. Serie A newcomer Alessandro Budel (Triestina), Uruguayan striker Javier Chevanton and experienced midfielder Luigi Piangerelli could be the key figures in a side who have stuck by promotion-winning coach Delio Rossi. Their combined talents, however, may not be quite enough to prevent another disappointing yo-yo back down to Serie B.

MILAN

So far, the reigning European champions have kept their transfer powder dry, with their only significant acquisition being that of Brazilian Cafu on a free transfer from Roma.

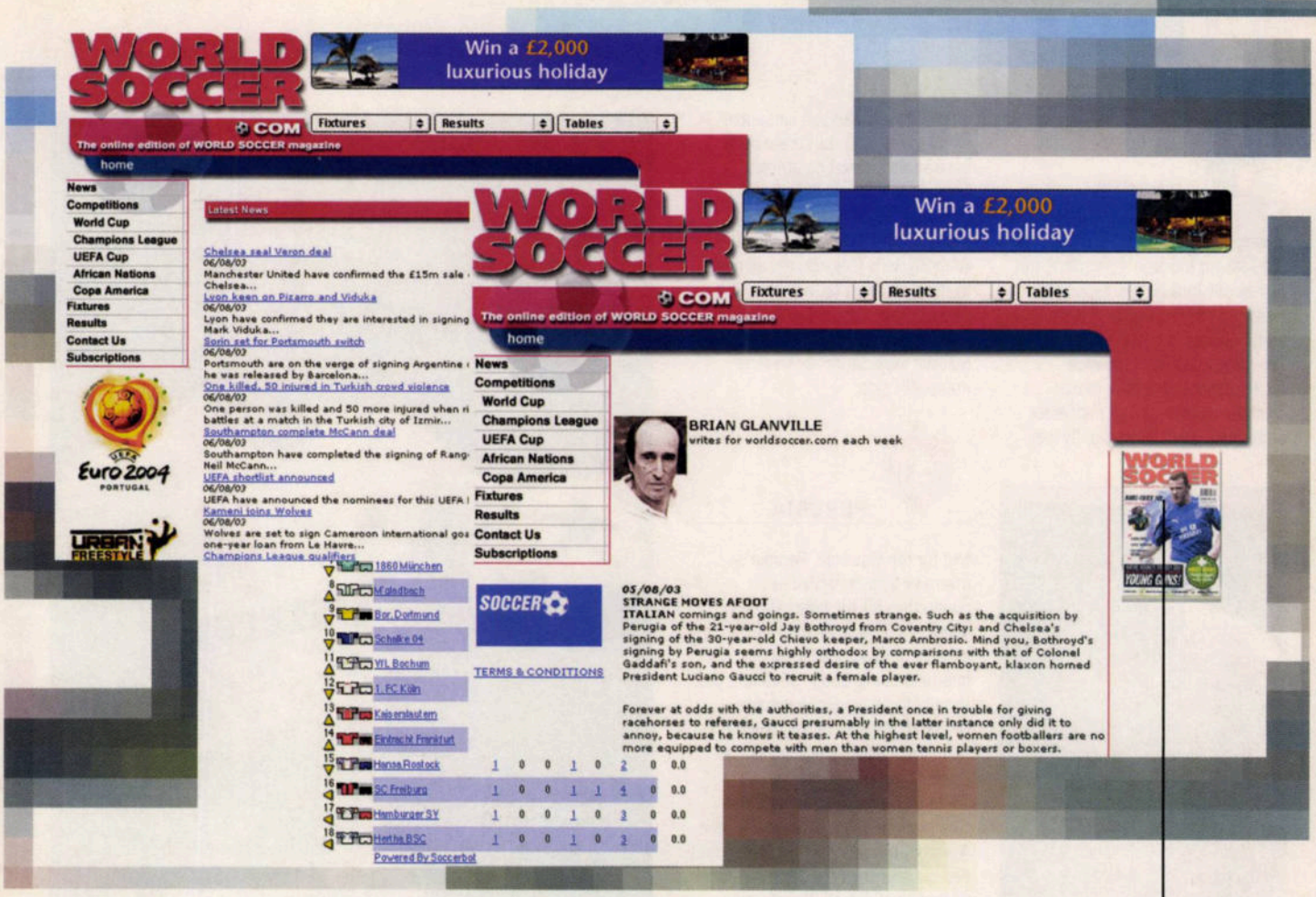
Even if Milan do not make waves in the market before the end of the summer, they will still start among the title favourites thanks to the breathtaking overall quality of their existing squad. If Filippo Inzaghi maintains last season's strike rate, if Ukraine bullet Andrii Shevchenko has an injury-free season and if Brazilian Rivaldo finally comes out to play then all Milan's opponents, at home and abroad, will have reason to be worried. With players like Alessandro Nesta, Paolo Maldini and Cafu in defence and with Andrea Pirlo, Massimo Ambrosini, Gennaro Gattuso and Portugal's Rui Costa in midfield, coach Carlo Ancelotti has a potent squad good enough to win the title.

Wide boy...Cafu will offer Milan extra options on the right

HOW THEY LINE UP

Dida – Cafu, Nesta, Maldini, Kaladze – Gattuso, Pirlo, Seedorf – Rui Costa – Shevchenko, Inzaghi.

Coach Ancelotti faces the same embarrassment of riches in attack as last year, but now the arrival of Cafu brings a new attacking option down the right flank.



Read WORLD SOCCER...

...every day!

- Comprehensive list of fixtures and results from around Europe, many updated within hours of matches finishing. Plus interactive League tables from Soccerbot
- Brian Glanville's weekly column
- All major international club and country competitions covered, including Euro 2004, Copa America, Champions League and UEFA Cup. Including previews and reviews of all the action
- Weekly ESM Golden Shoe updates
- Archived *World Soccer* features going back several years
- Daily news service from around the globe

www.worldsoccer.com

MODENA

Having struggled to avoid relegation last season, Modena's prospects this year hardly look better, especially following the departure of three useful players in Under-21 international striker Giuseppe Sculli (Chievo), defender Marco Zamboni (Juventus) and midfielder Giuseppe Colucci (Brescia). By way of compensation, new coach Alberto Malesani, formerly with Parma and Verona, has had plenty of Serie A experience. He will need all of it if Modena are to stay up.

Rising son...Al-Saadi Ghaddafi

PARMA

The club initiated a new era last season with a young, enthusiastic squad that boasted the prolific strikeforce of Brazilian Adriano and Romanian Adrian Mutu (33 Serie A goals between them). The latter has now departed to Chelsea, while Frenchman Sabri Lamouchi has gone to Inter, but there have been some interesting arrivals. Midfielder Manuele Blasi (Perugia), schemer Domenico Morfeo (Inter) and Croat defender Anthony Seric (Brescia) are all new to the club. Even so, a good UEFA Cup run rather than a serious title challenge would seem the most realistic expectation for Cesare Prandelli's side.

PERUGIA

Not for the first time, Perugia's inventive transfer activities meant they hit the international headlines. This summer it was because they signed Libyan international Al-Saadi Ghaddafi, the son of Libyan leader Muammar Ghaddafi, captain of the national team and deputy president of the Libyan Football Federation.

In all probability, 30-year-old Ghaddafi Jnr will not see much Serie A action, but it is worth recalling that Perugia launched the Serie A careers of Japan's Hidetoshi Nakata and South Korean Ahn Jung-hwan.

Charismatic coach Serse Cosmi will have to do without useful players like Manuele Blasi (Parma), Fabrizio Miccoli (Juventus) and Roberto Baronio (Chievo). For the past three seasons, however, Cosmi has successfully put together a new and competitive team. Doubtless he will do so again, aided by new players such as French defender Jamal Alioul (Lyon), Croat striker Sasa Bjelanovic (Como) and Argentinian midfielder Claudio Paris (Racing Club).

REGGINA

Still in Serie A thanks to defeating Atalanta in a relegation play-off, Reggina will field nearly all those players (Cozza, Nakamura, Paredes, Bonazzoli, Jiranek) who made them arguably the best of last season's relegation battlers.

The return of coach Franco Colomba and the arrival of midfielder Davide Baiocco (Juventus) should ensure that Reggina stay up and thus save southern Italian honour (Lecce are the only other southern side in Serie A this season).

Renaissance man...Roma will be looking to Antonio Cassano

ROMA

At the end of a season when Roma manifestly under-performed, many argued that the side required an injection of new blood in all departments. Yet, coach Fabio Capello has stayed put (not always with the full approval of owner Franco Sensi), and the club have so far made only one significant purchase – Romanian defender Cristian Chivu (Ajax). That said, they hope to land a new central striker (Spaniard Fernando Morientes, Swede Zlatan Ibrahimovic or Argentinian Julio Cruz are some of the possible targets) by the end of the summer.

The one notable departee is Brazilian defender Cafu, arguably Roma's most consistent player over the past five seasons, who has moved on to Milan.

Even with Italy's most talented footballer, Francesco Totti, still there to lead the line, the team's prospects may rely more on the renaissance of such strikers as Antonio Cassano and Vincenzo Montella.

On paper, and with the right motivation, this is still as good a side as that which won the 2001 title. However, it remains to be seen if Capello can overcome boardroom and dressing-room scepticism to put Roma back on the European map.

Parma departure...Adrian Mutu

On the way out...Roberto Muzzi could leave Udinese during the summer

SAMPDORIA

The 1991 champions make a welcome return to Serie A after four seasons in Serie B.

Although promotion-winning coach Walter Novellino remains, the squad has been revamped by the arrival of strikers Massimo Marazzina (Roma) and Japan's Atsushi Yanagisawa (Kashima Antlers), keeper Francesco Antonioli (Roma), defenders Giulio Falcone (Bologna) and Stefano Diana (Reggina), and midfielders Cristiano Doni (Atalanta), Massimo Donati (Torino) and Cristian Zenoni (Juventus).

Serie A survival should be within the capabilities of such an experienced crew.

SIENA

Serie B champions Siena represent the outstanding novelty of the season as they and promotion-winning coach Giuseppe Papadopulo make their Serie A debut.

Inevitably, changes have been made, with defenders Daniele Delli Carri (Torino), Bruno Cirillo (Lecce) and Argentinian Carlos Andres Arano (Racing Avellaneda), and Serbo-Montenegrin international midfielder Nikola Lazetic (Lazio) being acquired. Despite such experience, Siena could struggle and are obvious contenders for an immediate return to Serie B.

UDINESE

Coach Luciano Spalletti pulled off a major triumph in steering Udinese to a sixth-place finish last season.

Yet, arguably, he will have to work even harder this season to emulate such a feat since important players like Chilean playmaker David Pizarro, Danish midfielder Martin Jorgensen, Brazilian defender Alberto and experienced striker Roberto Muzzi are all likely to leave the club during the summer.

Much responsibility will therefore sit on the shoulders of Ghanaian midfielder Sulley Muntari, Czech midfielder Marek Jankulovski and striker Vincenzo Iaquinta. A mid-table finish would represent a good result for Spalletti's men.

Back for more...Roberto Baggio

STEPHAN APPIAH
Juventus
Young Ghanaian signed from Brescia who could add bite to the champions' midfield. Move over, Davids?

ROBERTO BAGGIO
Brescia
The Little Prince soap opera continues. Baggio, 37, insists he is fit enough to last another season. But will new Brescia coach Giovanni De Biase agree?

OBAFEMI MARTINS
Internazionale
Nigerian teenager who starred in last season's Champions League semi-finals.

DAVID PIZARRO
Lazio
Pint-sized playmaker who was the subject of a protracted transfer from Udinese to Lazio.

ANDY VAN DER MEYDE
Internazionale
Dutch winger who will provide much needed width to an Inter side criticised for a lack of invention last season.

Names in bold italic are new signings

ANCONA

GOALKEEPERS
Piergraziano GORI
Marco ROCCATI
Alessio SCARPI

DEFENDERS
Dario BACCIN
Drazen BOLIC (Cro)
Daniele DAINO
Marco ESPOSITO
FABIO BILICA (Bra)
Stefano LOMBARDI
Roberto MALTAGLIATI
Mauro MILANESE
Andrea SUSSI
William VIALI

MIDFIELDERS
Daniel ANDERSSON (Swe)
Daniele BERRETTA
Davide CARRUS
Eusebio DI FRANCESCO
Mads JORGENSEN (Den)
Giampiero MAINI
Damiano MOSCARDI
Marko PEROVIC (Ser)
Salvatore RUSSO

FORWARDS
Daniele DEGANO
Maurizio GANZ
Dario HUBNER
Goran PANDEV (Mac)
Paolo POGGI

COACH
Leonardo MENICHINI

BOLOGNA

GOALKEEPERS
Alex MANNINGER (Aut)
Gianluca PAGLIUCA
Andrea PANSERA

DEFENDERS
Marcello CASTELLINI
Mahamet DIAGOURAGA (Fra)
Alessandro GAMBERINI
Vlado SMIT (Ser)
Claudio TERZI
Emmanuel TROISE
Cristian ZACCARDO
Marco ZANCHI

MIDFIELDERS
Christian AMOROSO
Leonardo COLUCCI
Nicola CONSOLINI
Sam DALLA BONA
Andres GUGLIELMINPIETRO (Arg)
JUAREZ (Bra)
Tomas LOCATELLI
Massimo LOVISO
Mourad MEGHNI (Fra)
Carlo NERVO
Fabio PECCHIA

FORWARDS
Claudio BELLUCCI
Julio CRUZ (Arg)
Luigi DELLA ROCCA
Fausto ROSSINI
Giuseppe SIGNORI

COACH
Francesco GUIDOLIN

OUT: Falcone (Sampdoria), Paramatti (Reggiana), Vanoli (Rangers), Wome (Espanyol)

BRESCIA

GOALKEEPERS
Federico AGLIARDI
Luca CASTELLAZZI
Tiziano RAMON

DEFENDERS
Dario DAINELLI
Alessandro LUCARELLI
Victor Hugo MARECO (Par)
Gilberto MARTINEZ (CR)
Fabio PETRUZZI
Markus SCHOPP (Aut)
Marius STANKEVICIUS (Lit)

MIDFIELDERS
Jonathan BACHINI
Giuseppe COLUCCI
Luigi DI BIAGIO
Antonio FILIPPINI
Cyril GONA (Nig)
Roberto GUANA
MATUZALEM (Bra)
Marco PISANO
Andres Roberto YLLANA (Arg)

FORWARDS
Andrea ALBERTI
Roberto BAGGIO
Andrea CARACCIOLO
Simone DEL NERO
Raul GONZALEZ (Arg)
Abderrazzak JADID (Mor)
Filippo MANIERI
Marc NYGAARD (Den)
Mario Antonio SALGADO (Chl)
Igli TARE (Alb)

COACH
Giovanni DE BIASI

OUT: Appiah (Juventus), Toni (Palermo), Sereni (Lazio), Seric (Parma)

CHIEVO

GOALKEEPERS
Paolo CODOGNOLA
Giorgio FREZZOLINI
Luca MARCHEGIANI

DEFENDERS
Andrea BARZAGLI
Francesco CARBONE
Lorenzo D'ANA
Maurizio D'ANGELO
Daniele GASTALDELLO
Salvatore LANNA
Marco MALOGO
John MENSAH (Gha)
Fabio MORO
Emanuele PESARESI

MIDFIELDERS
Roberto BARONIO
Andrea D'AGOSTINO
Ivone DE FRANCESCHI
DE PAULA (Bra)
Daniele FRANCHESCHINI
Francisco MAGNANELLI
Stefano MORRONE
Matteo PARO
Simone PERROTTA

FORWARDS
AMAURI (Bra)
Salvatore BRUNO
Federico COSSATO
Sergio PELLISSIER
Mauricio PINILLA (Chi)
Giuseppe SCULLI
Marco VERONESE

COACH
Luigi DEL NERI

OUT: Corini (Palermo), Legrottaglie (Juventus), Lupatelli (Roma), Luciano (Inter), Lazetic (Siena), Nalis (Leicester)

EMPOLI

GOALKEEPERS
David BRET (Fra)
Luca BUCCI
Mario CASSANO
Federico VETTORI

DEFENDERS
Manuel BELLERI
Edmilson CRIBARI (Bra)
Andrea CUPI
Maurizio LANZANO
Stefano LUCCHINI
Roberto MIRRI
Francesco PRATALI
Andrea RAGGI

MIDFIELDERS
Alessandro AGOSTINO
Antonio BUSCE
Fabrizio FICINI
Pasquale FOGGIA
Flavio GIAMPIERETTI
Vincenzo GRELLA (Aus)
Franceco LODI
Nicola PADOIN
Ibrahim Abdul RAZAK (Gha)
Paolo ZANETTI

FORWARDS
Antonio DI NATALE
Mirco GASPARETTO
Vincenzo PELLECCHIA
Tommaso ROCCHI
Francesco TAVANO

COACH
Fabio BALDINI

INTERNAZIONALE

GOALKEEPERS
Alberto FONTANA
Francesco TOLDO

DEFENDERS
Daniele ADANI
Nicola BEATI
Fabio CANNAVARO
Francesco COCO
Ivan CORDOBA (Col)
Carlos GAMARRA (Par)
Thomas HELVEG (Den)
Marco MATERAZZI
Giovanni PASQUALE
Michele SERENA
Gonzalo SORONDO (Uru)
Javier ZANETTI (Arg)

MIDFIELDERS
Matias ALMEYDA (Arg)
Jonatan BINOTTO
Stephane DALMAT (Fra)
EMRE Belozoglu (Tur)
Khalilou FADIGA (Sen)
Giorgios KARAGOUNIS (Gre)
Sabri LAMOUCHI (Fra)
LUCIANO (Bra)
OKAN Buruk (Tur)
Alvaro RECOBA (Uru)
Andy VAN DER MEYDE (Hol)
Cristiano ZANETTI

FORWARDS
Hernan CRESPO (Arg)
Mohamed KALLON (SLe)
Obafemi MARTINS (Nig)
Anselmo ROBBIATI
Nicola VENTOLA
Christian VIERI

COACH
Hector CUPER (Arg)

OUT: Morfeo (Parma), Sergio Conceicao (Lazio), Di Biagio (Brescia), Pandev (Ancona)

JUVENTUS

GOALKEEPERS
Gianluigi BUFFON
Antonio CHIMENTI
Antonio MIRANTE

DEFENDERS
Alessandro BIRINDELLI
Ciro FERRARA
Salvatore FRESI
Mark IULIANO
Nicola LEGROTTAGLIE
Paolo MONTERO (Uru)
Gianluca PESSOTTO
Lilian THURAM (Fra)
Igor TUDOR (Cro)
Marco ZAMBONI

MIDFIELDERS
Stephan APPIAH (Gha)
Davide BAIOCCO
Marco BRIGHI
Mauro CAMORANESI
Antonio CONTE
Edgar DAVIDS (Hol)
Enzo MARESCA
Pavel NEDVED (Cze)
Alessio TACCHINARDI
Gianluca ZAMBROTTA

FORWARDS
Alessandro DEL PIERO
Marco DI VAIO
Fabrizio MICCOLI
Ruben OLIVERA (Uru)
David TREZEGUET (Fra)
Marcelo ZALAYETA (Uru)

COACH
Marcello LIPPI

OUT: Zenoni (Sampdoria), Salas (River Plate)

LAZIO

GOALKEEPERS
Fabrizio CASAZZA
Angelo PERUZZI
Matteo SERENI

DEFENDERS
CESAR Rodriguez Aparecido (Bra)
Francesco COLONNESE
Giuseppe FAVALLI
FERNANDO COUTO (Por)
Sinisa MIHAJLOVIC (Ser)
Paolo NEGRO
Alessandro NESTA
Massimo ODDO
Juan Pablo SORIN (Arg)
Jaap STAM (Hol)

MIDFIELDERS
Demetrio ALBERTINI
Dino BAGGIO
Lucas CASTROMAN (Arg)
Ousmane DABO (Fra)
Stefano FIORE
Giuliano GIANNICHEDDA
Guerino GOTTARDI
Fabio LIVERANI
Christian MANFREDINI
Gaizka MENDIETA (Spa)
SERGIO CONCEICAO (Por)
Dejan STANKOVIC (Ser)

FORWARDS
CLAUDIO LOPEZ (Arg)
Bernardo CORRADI
Simone INZAGHI
Luciano ZAURI

COACH
Roberto MANCINI

OUT: Chiesa (Siena), Pancaro (Milan), Simeone (Atletico Madrid), Marchegiani (Chievo)

LECCE

GOALKEEPERS
Marco AMELIA
Andrea PANICO
Vukasin Radomir POLEKSIC (Ser)
Antonio ROSATI
Delio ROSSI

DEFENDERS
Giuseppe ABRUZZESE
Philippe BILLY (Fra)
Gianluca COLONNELLO
Arnaud KOUYO (IvC)
Cristian SILVESTRI (Fra)
Alberto SAVINO
Sebastiano SIVIGLIA
Lorenzo STOVINI

MIDFIELDERS
Alessandro BUDEL
Drissa DIARRA (IvC)
Guillermo GIACOMAZZI (Uru)
Cristian LEDESMA (Arg)
Luigi PIANGERELLI
Marco TESTA
Max TONETTO
Djuric WINKLAAR (Hol)

FORWARDS
Valeri BOJINOV (Bul)
Javier Ernesto CHEVANTON (Uru)
Sebastjan CIMIROTIC (Sln)
Axel Cedric KONAN
Mirko VUCINIC (Ser)

COACH
Delio ROSSI

OUT: Frezzolini (Chievo)

MILAN

GOALKEEPERS
Christian ABBIATI
DIDA (Bra)
Valerio FIORI

DEFENDERS
CAFU (Bra)
Jose CHAMOT (Arg)
Alessandro COSTACURTA
Kakha KALADZE (Geo)
Martin LAURSEN (Den)
Paolo MALDINI
Alessandro NESTA
Giuseppe PANCARO
ROQUE JUNIOR Jose Vitor (Bra)
Dario SIMIC (Cro)

MIDFIELDERS
Massimo AMBROSINI
Cristian BROCCHI
Gennaro GATTUSO
Andrea PIRLO
Fernando REDONDO (Arg)
Manuel RUI COSTA (Por)
Clarence SEEDORF (Hol)
SERGINHO (Bra)

FORWARDS
Marco BORRIELLO
Filippo INZAGHI
RIVALDO (Bra)
Andrii SHEVCHENKO (Ukr)
Jon Dahl TOMASSON (Den)

COACH
Carlo ANCELOTTI

OUT: Dalla Bona (Bologna), Albertini (Lazio), Jose Mari (Villarreal), Donati (Sampdoria)

MODENA

GOALKEEPERS
Marco BALLOTTA
Adriano ZANCOPE

DEFENDERS
Roberto CEVOLI
Mauro MAYER
Simone PAVAN
Cristian STELLINI
Luca UNGARI
Sofiane ZAABOUB (Fra)

MIDFIELDERS
Riccardo ALLEGRETTI
Jacopo BALESTRI
Nicola CAMPEDELLI
Nicola CORRENT
Antonio MARASCO
Stefano MAURI
Omar MILANETTO
Francois MODESTO
Vedin MUSIC (Bos)
Paolo PONZO
Marco ROSSI
Massimo SCOPONI

FORWARDS
Andrea FABBRINI
Diomansy KAMARA (Fra)
Carlo TALDO
Fabio VIGNAROLI

COACH
Alberto MALESANI

OUT: Sculli (Chievo), Zamboni (Juventus), Colucci (Brescia)

PARMA

GOALKEEPERS
Alfonso DE LUCIA
Sebastien FREY (Fra)
Claudio Andre TAFFAREL (Bra)

DEFENDERS
Antonio BENARRIVO
Daniele BONERA
Paolo CANNAVARO
Matteo FERRARI
Emiliano MORETTI
Gabriel Gaston OYOLA (Arg)
Anthony SERIC (Cro)

MIDFIELDERS
Simone BARONE
Manuele BLASI
Mark BRESCIANO (Aus)
Matteo BRIGHI
Marco DONADEL
Emanuele FILIPPINI
JUNIOR De Souza J. Angelo (Bra)
Marco MARCHIONNI
Domenico MORFEO
Hidetoshi NAKATA (Jap)
Alessandro ROSINA

FORWARDS
ADRIANO Riberio Leite (Bra)
Alberto GILARDINO
Jhonnier MONTANO (Col)
Paolo POGGI

COACH
Claudio Cesare PRANDELLI

OUT: Mutu (Chelsea), Lamouchi (Inter), Poggi (Ancona), Diana (Sampdoria)

PERUGIA

GOALKEEPERS
Giuseppe APREA
Zeljko KALAC (Aus)
Michele TARDIOLI

DEFENDERS
Jamal ALIOUI (Fra)
Massimo DE MARTIS
Marco DI LORETO
Souleymane DIAMOUTENE
Gian Battista IGNOFFO
Ernesto TERRA

MIDFIELDERS
Guilherme DO PRADO
Fabio FILIPPI
Massimiliano FUSANI
Fabio GATTI
Fabio GROSSO
Giorgio LA VISTA
Kostantinos LOUMPOUTIS (Gre)
Christian OBODO (Nig)
Luigi PAGLIUCA
Claudio PARIS (Arg)
Giovanni TEDESCO
Jose M. Ferreira ZE MARIA (Bra)

FORWARDS
Emmanuele BERRETTONI
Jay BOTHROYD (Eng)
Sasa BIELANOVIC (Cro)
Al-Saadi GHADDAFI (Lby)
Juan Martin TURCHI
Zisis VRYZAS (Gre)

COACH
Serse COSMI

OUT: Blasi (Parma), Miccoli (Juventus), Baronio (Chievo)

REGGINA

GOALKEEPERS
Emanuele BELARDI
Martin LEJSAL (Cze)

DEFENDERS
Riccardo ALDERUCCIO
Gianluca FALSINI
Ivan FRANCESCHINI
Martin JIRANEK (Cze)
Gonzalo MARTINEZ (Col)
Giovanni MORABITO
Andrea SOTTIL
Stefano TORRISI

MIDFIELDERS
Davide BAIOCCO
Francesco COZZA
Jakub HOTTEK (Cze)
Julio Cesar LEON (Hnd)
Giandomenico MESTO
MOZART (Bra)
Shunsuke NAKAMURA (Jap)
Carlos PAREDES (Par)
Giacomo TEDESCO
Ricardo Matias VERON (Arg)

FORWARDS
Erjon BOGDANI (Alb)
Emiliano BONAZZOLI
Stefano DALL'ACQUA
David DI MICHELE
Roberto MAFFUCCI
Roberto STELLONE

COACH
Franco COLOMBA

ROMA

GOALKEEPERS
Cristiano LUPATELLI
Marco PAOLINI
Ivan PELIZZOLI
Carlo ZOTTI

DEFENDERS
Cristian CHIVU (Rom)
Leandro CUFRE (Arg)
Traianos DELLAS (Gre)
Alessandro MANCINI (Bra)
Christian PANUCCI
Walter SAMUEL (Arg)
Luigi SARTOR
Jonathan ZEBINA (Fra)

MIDFIELDERS
Vincent CANDELA (Fra)
Olivier DACOURT (Fra)
Daniele DE ROSSI
EMERSON Ferreira da Rosa (Bra)
Gianni GUIGOU (Uru)
Francisco Govinho LIMA (Bra)
Damiano TOMMASI

FORWARDS
Davide BOMBARDINI
Antonio CASSANO
Gaetano D'AGOSTINO
Marco DELVECCHIO
Vincenzo MONTELLA
Francesco TOTTI

COACH
Fabio CAPELLO

OUT: Cafu (Milan), Antonioli (Sampdoria), Batistuta (Al Arabi)

SAMPDORIA

GOALKEEPERS
Francesco ANTONIOLI
Emanuele BIANCHI
Michele MANGIAPELO
Luigi TURCI

DEFENDERS
Stefano BETTARINI
Moris CARROZZIERI
Mirko CONTE
Aimo DIANA
Maurizio DOMIZZI
Giulio FALCONE
Alessandro GRANDONI
Stefano SACCHETTI
Nenad SAKIC (Ser)

MIDFIELDERS
Luca ANTONINI
Massimo DONATI
Cristiano DONI
Angelo PALOMBO
Francesco PEDONE
Fabian VALTOLINA
Sergio VOLPI
Cristiano ZENONI
Bratislav ZIVKOVIC (Ser)

FORWARDS
Fabio BAZZANI
Corrado COLOMBO
Francesco FLACHI
Thomas Herve JOB IYOCK (Cam)
Massimo MARAZZINA
Atsushi YANAGISAWA (Jap)

COACH
Walter NOVELLINO

OUT: Casazza (Lazio)

SIENA

GOALKEEPERS
Marco FORTIN
Matteo GIANELLO
Generoso ROSSI

DEFENDERS
Ghislain AKASSOU (IvC)
Carlo Andres ARANO (Arg)
Simone BONOMI
Bruno CIRILLO
Daniele DELLI CARRI
Paolo FOGLIO
Michele MIGNANI

MIDFIELDERS
Andrea ARDITO
Stefano ARGILLI
Roberto D'AVERSA
Nikola LAZETIC (Ser)
Fernando MENEGAZZO (Bra)
Vincenzo RICCIO
Rodrigo TADDEI
Lampros VANGELIS (Gre)

FORWARDS
Enrico CHIESA
Antonio MORELLO
Christian SCALZO

COACH
Giuseppe PAPADOPULO

UDINESE

GOALKEEPERS
Adriano Jorge BONAIUTI
Morgan DE SANCTIS
Olivier RENARD (Blg)

DEFENDERS
Valerio BERTOTTO
FELIPE Dal Belo (Bra)
Mohammed GARGO (Gha)
Per KROLDRUP (Den)
Thomas MANFREDINI
Alessandro PIERINI
Nestor SENSINI (Arg)

MIDFIELDERS
Sergio Bernardo ALMIRON (Arg)
Giuseppe GEMITI (Ger)
Luis HELGUERA
Marek JANKULOVSKI (Cze)
Martin JORGENSEN (Den)
Ali Sulley MUNTARI (Gha)
Michele PAZIENZA
Mirko PIERI
Giampiero PINZI
David PIZARRO (Chl)
Fabio ROSSITTO

FORWARDS
Henok GOITOM (Swe)
Vincenzo IAQUINTA
Carsten JANCKER (Ger)
Roberto MUZZI
Siyabonga NOMVETE (SAf)

COACH
Luciano SPALLETTI

Key to success...Porto midfielder Deco

Taking a hit

The big clubs have again suffered in the transfer market, says Nick Bidwell

FC PORTO

Jose Mourinho, the coach who led Porto to a historic treble of UEFA Cup, Portuguese League and Cup last season, may have mixed feelings about the two biggest names to leave the club this summer. While new Rangers winger Nuno Capucho may be slightly past his prime and somewhat injury-prone, the same cannot be said of hugely-impressive young striker Helder Postiga, who recently moved to the English Premier League with Tottenham.

Porto have manoeuvred sensibly if not spectacularly in the marketplace, bringing in promising Sporting Lisbon playmaker Ricardo Fernandes and South African front-man Benni McCarthy (Celta Vigo), plus a decent Boavista duo in midfielder Jose Bosingwa and Brazilian forward Serginho. The key to another good season, though, is a fit and in-form Deco at the midfield controls.

Very sophisticated tactically, Mourinho has enjoyed success with a 4-4-2, a 4-2-3-1 and a 4-3-3. But what remains the same is the fluidity of his team, an energetic pressing game and neat attacking triangles.

HOW THEY LINE UP

Vitor Baia – Paulo Ferreira, Jorge Costa, Ricardo Carvalho, Nuno Valente – Maniche, Bosingwa, Alenichev – Deco – McCarthy, Derlei.

BENFICA

With little cash available for reinforcements, the fans have been complaining about their club's lack of activity in the transfer market. The only new arrivals were diminutive right-sided schemer Alex from Moreirense and powerful midfielder Fernando Aguiar, who had been on loan at Uniao Leiria, though Brazilian midfielder/attacker Geovanni has joined Benfica permanently after being on loan from Barcelona.

Spanish coach Jose Antonio Camacho is said to want several more additions, and it did not bode well when his agent recently declared that Camacho would not show limitless patience waiting for the cavalry.

Camacho has tried a 4-4-2 and 4-2-3-1 in pre-season, but the best results have been with a 4-3-3. Width, very important to the coach, is provided by Geovanni and Simao, plus adventurous left-back Cristiano. With Portuguese international striker Nuno Gomes recovering from a knee operation, the Croat Tomislav Sokota or Brazilian Roger should come in.

HOW THEY LINE UP

Moreira – Miguel, Argel, Helder, Cristiano – Petit, Zahovic, Tiago – Geovanni, Sokota, Simao.

AND THE REST...

The sales of young winger Ricardo Quaresma and forward Cristiano Ronaldo, to Barcelona and Man Utd respectively, were major setbacks for **SPORTING LISBON**. However, they have shown much ambition in buying Portugal keeper Ricardo (Boavista), midfielder Fabio Rochemback (Barcelona), Brazilian centre-back Anderson Polga (Gremio) and striker Elpidio Silva (Boavista).

BOAVISTA'S new Bolivian coach Erwin Sanchez, their former playmaker, has a tough task. He has lost too many good players (Ricardo, Bosingwa and Elpidio Silva), and of the many new faces, only striker Fary Faye (Beira Mar) inspires optimism.

UNIAO LEIRIA have lost inspirational coach Manuel Cajuda to Maritimo and key midfielders Silas and Fernando Aguiar, but at least they have a good front-line in Maciel, Ludemar and Douala.

A good sixth last season, **PACOS FERREIRA** should have another reasonable campaign. They have a new boss in Jose Gomes (ex-Benfica coaching staff) and bought promising Cameroon defensive midfielder Bikey (from Second Division Marco).

GUIMARAES should continue to prosper under highly-rated coach Augusto Inacio. They have added strength to midfield by buying Rui Ferreira (Salgueiros) and Afonso Martins (Moreirense). **GIL VICENTE**, **BELENENSES**, **MARITIMO**, **BRAGA** and **NACIONAL** look set for mid-table, while newly-promoted **RIO AVE**, **ALVERCA** and **ESTRELA AMADORA** are likely to be involved in a relegation battle, along with **ACADEMICA**, **BEIRA MAR** and **MOREIRENSE**.

Signed...Sporting's Elpidio Silva (left)

Old Firm, new problems

Financial constraints have limited the big two's transfer market activity. Alan Fairley reports

RANGERS

Having achieved the domestic treble during his first season in charge at Ibrox, manager Alex McLeish will be looking to cement Rangers' position at the forefront of the Scottish game but he will also be aiming to re-establish the club in Europe.

Unusually for Rangers, there was little transfer market activity, with three new signings – Nuno Capucho (Porto), Zurab Khizanishvili (Dundee) and Paolo Vanoli (Bologna). Ronald De Boer expressed doubts about the team's ability to make an impact on the Champions League, especially as players of the quality of Lorenzo Amoruso, Arthur Numan and Claudio Caniggia have been lost.

Rangers are, however, like most Scottish clubs, facing up to the harsh financial realities of the modern game and the bottomless pit of transfer cash has now been firmly sealed.

On a more positive note, Dutchman Michael Mols has renewed his contract.

HOW THEY LINE UP

Klos – Ricksen, Khizanishvili, Moore, Ball – Arteta, Ferguson, De Boer, Capucho – Mols, Arveladze.

CELTIC

A trophy-less season was adequately compensated for by Celtic's great run to the UEFA Cup Final, an adventure that went some way towards restoring Scotland's tarnished reputation on the European stage.

Martin O'Neill still has a long way to go before achieving the same level of immortality as Jock Stein, but he deserves credit for the manner in which he masterminded the downfall of some well-fancied sides en route to defeat by Porto in Seville.

As with Rangers, financial constraints have prevented O'Neill from adding to his squad.

In what is likely to be the final chapter in Henrik Larsson's Celtic novel, a successor for the Swede is desperately required. Youngster Shaun Maloney (15 goals in just over 50 games) could be the answer.

HOW THEY LINE UP

Douglas – McNamara, Mjallby, Balde, Laursen – Thompson, Lennon, Lambert, Petrov – Sutton, Larsson.

Raw talent...Shaun Maloney

Fresh face...Nuno Capucho is one of the new signings at Ibrox

AND THE REST...

ABERDEEN spent most of the last campaign trying to edge clear of the relegation zone. So Dons fans will be looking for a more productive season from a team strengthened by striker Scott Booth, who is starting his second spell with the club.

A trip to the Scottish Cup Final was the highlight of a mediocre season for **DUNDEE**, who have lost Khizanishvili to Rangers. Foreign influences continue to be strong, with Fabian Caballero and Jonay Hernandez figuring prominently in the plans of manager Jim Duffy.

DUNDEE UNITED narrowly avoided bottom spot last term but the club's outlook has been transformed by new manager Ian McCall. He has brought in several new faces, including Derek McInnes, Scott Paterson and Collin Samuel.

A second successive top-six finish has given **DUNFERMLINE** respectability at Premier Division level but manager Jimmy Calderwood will be setting his sights on Europe this season. The sibling signings of Darren and Derek Young from Aberdeen reflect Calderwood's ambition.

HEARTS haven't finished outside the top six for almost 10 years but the fans are now demanding more. The acquisition of striker Dennis Wyness and midfielder Paul Hartley will help manager Craig Levein challenge the Old Firm.

HIBERNIAN continue to stutter along but there are signs of a revival at Easter Road with the emergence of some talented youngsters such as Tom McManus, Scott Brown and Derek Riordan. The purchase of striker Stephen Dobbie from Rangers looks like an inspired move by manager Bobby Williamson.

KILMARNOCK finished fourth last season and will now be vying for a European place. Manager Jim Jefferies has gradually turned round Killie's fortunes, and the signing of Australian international Danny Invincible should help them towards their target of a top-three finish.

After finishing third in 2001-02 and experiencing European football for the first time, last season was one of consolidation for **LIVINGSTON** following the loss of a number of quality players. The recruitment of Brazilian coach Marcio Maximo is a strong statement of intent.

MOTHERWELL only managed to avoid relegation on a technicality last season and the club are currently in administration. However, manager Terry Butcher has signed some quality players such as Alex Burns, Gordon Marshall and Stephen Craigen.

Having won the Second and First Divisions in successive seasons, **PARTICK** comfortably secured survival in the top flight last season. New manager Gerry Collins has been able to strengthen the squad with a number of new faces.

Can anyone match Madrid?

Sid Lowe on the battle to catch the champions

ALBACETE

With the smallest budget of all the First Division clubs, Albacete are prime candidates for relegation. Anything else and manager Cesar Ferrando – a promotion expert making his top-flight debut – will become an instant hero. Albacete's signings have been modest but could bring some reward. Unai Vergara and Carlos Aranda both joined from Villarreal, but the most eye-catching arrival is Salamanca's young Brazilian striker Caca, the man who came to Spain under Ronaldo's wing. Caca's striking partner is likely to be Gabriel Amato or 19 year-old Pablo Garcia, of whom Albacete have great hopes. At the other end, Albacete boast former Argentinian international keeper Carlos Roa.

ATHLETIC BILBAO

Athletic have asked their squad to take a 15 per cent pay cut, which most have accepted with good grace. That says much about the spirit at Athletic, which is why fans remain hopeful despite those financial difficulties and the fact that the team look weaker on paper, having lost Alkiza and Aitor Ocio among others. New coach Ernesto Valverde has an impressive record with the club's youth system and is expected to provide the platform from which the likes of Asier Del Horno, Joseba Arriaga and Luis Prieto can improve on the promise they showed last season. Led by Fran Yeste and Joseba Etxeberria, Athletic should score plenty of goals. Their troubles may come at the other end.

Ascending star...Atletico's Fernando Torres

ATLETICO MADRID

As usual, Atletico have been the busiest summer signers, despite the dire financial situation facing the club – which helped, finally, to encourage 'legendary' president Jesus Gil to resign. Veteran manager Luis Aragones has been replaced by Mallorca's exceptional Gregorio Manzano, and he is joined by a host of new players, including Diego Simeone from Lazio and Malaga midfielder Kiki Musampa. A great pre-season full of pace, creativity and goals has sent *rojiblanco* hopes soaring. A top-six finish, with Fernando Torres becoming one of Spain's biggest stars, is a real possibility.

Full of promise...Athletic's Asier Del Horno

BARCELONA

Hope was just starting to return to Barcelona – then new president Joan Laporta announced a £115m deficit. Immediately, Carles Puyol appeared to be up for sale. Since the departure of Pep Guardiola, Puyol has been the symbol of Barcelona, and team-mate Xavi admitted that he didn't

Bursting through...Ronaldinho will show he can play a bit for Barcelona

"even want to imagine the club without him".

Frank Rijkaard has re-imposed some order and, under new sporting director Txiki Beguiristain, the club have also bought well over the summer. Portuguese winger Ricardo Quaresma has impressed, Rafael Marquez finally gives stability and pace at the back, Luis Garcia has returned after a successful year at Atletico and Rustu Recber will surely bring an end to Barça's goalkeeping nightmare. Then, of course, there's Ronaldinho. Goofy, forever on the town and prone to ridiculous gestures he may be, but he can play a bit, too.

BETIS

Betis's talent is undeniable – few clubs can boast the quality of Joaquin, Denilson, Marcos Assuncao or Capi. Yet, for all their flashes of brilliance, question marks remain about their ability to turn attractive football into consistent results, while the squad appears to lack strength in depth. Coach Victor Fernandez's desperation for a forward has been partly satisfied with the excellent, quick-footed Tote arriving from Real Madrid and the departure of far-from-prolific Joao Tomas. Could still do with an out-and-out striker, though.

CELTA VIGO

Having taken Celta to the Champions League for the first time ever, Miguel Angel Lotina may have finally pushed them from nearly men to the real deal – although that's been said before, not least when powerful striker Catanha first arrived to turn fantasy footballers into genuine contenders three years ago. Lotina's pragmatism also comes at the cost of some dubbing the side boring – defensively, they are exceptionally strong.

Edu and Jesuli, neither of whom are out-and-out strikers, are likely to shoulder the bulk of Celta's attacking responsibilities, with Catanha falling from favour, Egyptian Ahmed Hossam not continuing after a successful loan spell at the end of last season and Benni McCarthy leaving for Porto. The other option is new signing Savo Milosevic, but Lotina has publicly stated that he would like another striker. The forwards will be supplied by Gustavo Lopez and the now slightly creaking but immensely talented Alexander Mostovoi.

May struggle to keep up on two fronts if they reach the Champions League group stage, but there is no doubt that Celta are among the big boys.

HOW THEY LINE UP

Cavallero – Velasco, Contreras, Caceres, Silvinho – Jose Ignacio, Giovanella – Edu, Mostovoi, Jesuli – Milosevic.

Milosevic is likely to start as the central striker, with an attacking midfield trio led by the Russian Mostovoi supplying the ammunition.

DEPORTIVO

The loss of last term's League top scorer Roy Makaay to Bayern Munich has cast a shadow over Deportivo's summer preparations, especially since no one has joined except loan returnees Walter Pandiani and Djalminha.

Makaay's departure does at least give the wonderfully talented Diego Tristan a chance to re-establish his relationship with playmaker Juan Carlos Valeron. If Valeron remains fit and the club can avoid the injuries suffered last year, Depor could challenge, particularly if fit-again Jorge Andrade proves to be the defensive guarantee as expected. Certainly, he will add some much-needed pace at the back – something Depor also lack in midfield, unless striker Albert Luque is shifted to the wing. Their hopes will also depend on how long the immense Mauro Silva can keep going.

HOW THEY LINE UP

Molina – Manuel Pablo, Jorge Andrade, Naybet, Romero – Victor, Sergio, Mauro Silva, Fran – Valeron – Diego Tristan.

Diego Tristan will be the lone striker in coach Javier Irureta's 4-4-1-1 formation, with Valeron as the playmaker. Alternatively, Luque or Pandiani could come in as a second striker in a more conventional 4-4-2.

Oozing quality...Joaquin of Betis

ESPANYOL

Love him or loathe him, ex-Spain manager Javier Clemente turned Espanyol round last season after a dreadful start. "They were just a messy bunch before I arrived," Clemente was caught telling a friend – and he had a point. With greater discipline and organisation, Espanyol should avoid relegation fairly comfortably, although much more than that will probably be beyond them. Losing Roger is a blow, but Espanyol have added Raul Molina up front and Real Sociedad's Turkish winger, Tayfun Korkut. More controversially, they have signed Jordi Cruyff, ex-Barça player and son of Camp Nou legend Johan. If things do not go well quickly, Cruyff could be given a tough time. Once again, much will depend on Espanyol's pacy, crafty little striker Raul Tamudo, who has stayed in Catalonia despite rumours connecting him to a number of other clubs, including Valencia.

Crafty...Espanyol's Raul Tamudo

MALAGA

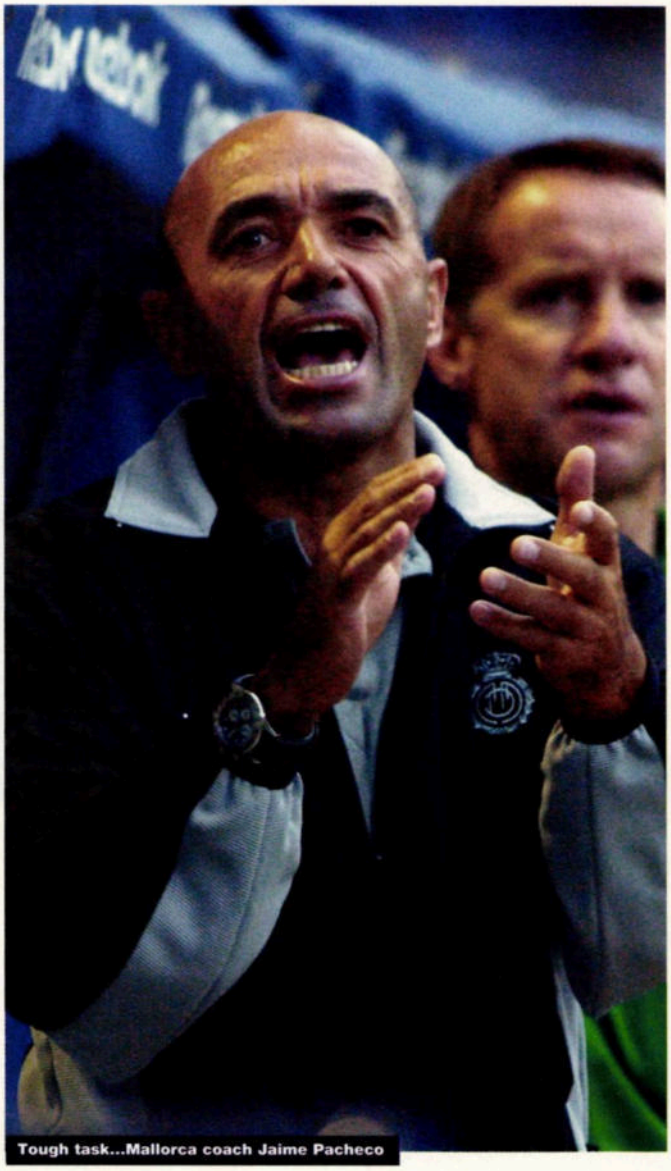
In the summer, coach Joaquin Prieto, a widely-respected Spanish version of Bobby Robson, left almost in tears, disgusted with the board. He has been followed by Kiki Musampa, Dario Silva, Sandro, Dely Valdes and Mikel Roteta – first-team players all. Malaga started last season brilliantly only to fall away desperately. This season, without the ability and spark of players like Musampa and Dario Silva, it would be a surprise if they even started well. Despite the experience and talent of new coach Juande Ramos, Malaga could really struggle. Racked by financial problems, they will be hoping for great things from their highly-rated youth teamers, led by striker Koke.

MALLORCA

Mallorca are Copa del Rey holders but have lost manager Gregorio Manzano, young centre-back Albert Riera and striker Walter Pandiani, who has returned to Deportivo. Midfielder Harold Lozano has also left and rumours abound that he will be followed by the forward connection of Ariel Ibagaza and Samuel Eto'o. New coach Jaime Pacheco (ex-Boavista, with whom he won a Portuguese League title) has a tough task ahead of him. If Mallorca do lose Eto'o and Ibagaza, it is difficult to see where the goals will come from.

MURCIA

Second Division champions against the odds. At the end of last season, asked for the secret, Murcia's eccentric manager David Vidal replied: "Don't ask me: my aim was to keep us up. God knows how this happened!" Well, quite. It seemed like Vidal was a miracle worker, but then Murcia's board surprisingly released him. He has been replaced by Joaquin Peiro, and Murcia have bought sensibly, adding Rayo's right-sided midfielder Julio Alvarez, hard-edged centre-back Mikel Roteta from Malaga, Celtic keeper Javier Sanchez Broto and free agent Juan Esnaider up front. They have been joined by Rayo captain Michel, a player of guile and vision, and Real Madrid centre-back Julio Cesar. If they get a decent start, Murcia could be OK – just. If not, they will struggle.


Tough task...Mallorca coach Jaime Pacheco

OSASUNA

With more time to work on his side than last year, when he arrived a little while into the season, Javier Aguirre should be able to make a better job of imposing his vision on the squad. At least Osasuna should, as ever, be highly competitive and difficult to beat. Not least at El Sadar, where the tight pitch and incredible atmosphere should alone be enough to secure survival – or maybe a little more. Osasuna's additions have been modest, to say the least, with only right-back Unai Exposito (Athletic Bilbao) arriving from a First Division club.

RACING SANTANDER

It's been a crazy summer in Santander, where Dimitri Piterman's presidency has been taken by Santiago Diaz. That has led to the departure of coach Chuchi Cos, who some accused of being little more than Piterman's yes-man. Yet few could deny that Piterman and Cos turned round Racing's fortunes last year. Now the future is a mystery. Racing have lost on-loan pocket dynamo Pedro Munitis and goalkeeper Erwin Lemmens. Meanwhile, those players who have come in do not completely convince the fans. Having gone down with Recreativo last year, it could be another tough season for new coach Lucas Alcaraz.

The NEW Easy-To-Follow Guide to Better Photos

Great first issue

ON SALE AUG 14TH

www.betterdigitalphotography.com

Spectacular expected...Beckham, Raul, Zidane and co must bring success – and nothing less

REAL MADRID

Anything other than a spectacular season would be considered a failure for Real Madrid, having added David Beckham to a team that was already the most extravagant in history. Beckham's arrival has seen Luis Figo shift to the left wing, while Zinedine Zidane has moved inside to partner Claude Makelele. However, at the time of writing Makelele's agent Marc Roger was insisting that his client no longer wants to continue at Real Madrid earning a salary only a sixth the size of Beckham's.

Makelele's departure would be a huge blow, and Madrid have other limitations, too. The squad looks very light and coach Carlos Queiroz has insisted that he needs another centre-back, claiming that a Ferrari can't run without tyres. "Madrid's tyres are already Ferrari ones, you can't ask for more," responded sporting director Jorge Valdano, making it clear he had no intention of buying a defender – at least, not until he can offload some unwanted wage earners.

Still, Madrid's incredible talent should be just too much for the competition, especially with Ronaldo now fully fit and showing signs of once again being the frightening phenomenon who exploded at Barcelona back in 1996.

HOW THEY LINE UP

Casillas – Michel Salgado, Ivan Helguera, Pavon, Roberto Carlos – Beckham, Makelele, Zidane, Figo – Raul, Ronaldo.

The easiest way to accommodate Beckham is for Figo to switch to the left, with Zidane in the centre. Alternatively, Beckham could switch to the middle, with Figo and Zidane on the right and left respectively.

REAL SOCIEDAD

Last season's great revelation, Real Sociedad are largely unchanged, having added few new players. Alkiza and Korean Lee Chun-soo are the most notable signings, and the first XI is likely to be unchanged after Javier De Pedro failed to reach agreement with Southampton. Unlike last year, however, Raynald Denoueix will be forced to rotate the squad as Real compete in both League and European competition. What effect those extra games will have on their high-tempo pressing game remains to be seen, but it is unlikely the club will be able to repeat their title challenge. The squad still looks a little thin, and key injuries could have important consequences. But if Real can carry on where they left off, a decent run in the Champions League and a UEFA Cup spot at home is a definite possibility.

Once again the speed with which the team use the ball, starting at the back with the exceptional distribution of keeper Sander Westerveld, will be fundamental. Xabi Alonso, De Pedro and Valeri Karpin will be the men to supply the lethal forward duo, Nihat Kahveci and Darko Kovacevic. Europe's big clubs will be looking particularly closely at youngster Xabi Alonso.

HOW THEY LINE UP

Westerveld – Lopez Rekarte, Schurrer, Kvarme, Aranzabal – De Pedro, Aranburu, Xabi Alonso, Karpin – Nihat, Kovacevic.

Coach Denoueix favours a fast-tempo pressing game that plays to the strengths of Nihat and Kovacevic in attack.

SEVILLA

Under coach Joaquin Caparros Sevilla are, quite simply, hard as nails. Superbly organised, committed and

not frightened to mix it, they boasted the division's second best defence last season and defied the predictions to finish well clear of the relegation zone, even threatening the UEFA Cup positions. Having used the summer productively, they look set to be even better this season. Wonder-kid Jose Antonio Reyes is a year older and improving all the time. He will be joined, at last, by a decent striker in

Opportunity knocks...Valencia's Salva

the shape of madcap Uruguayan Dario Silva – a handful for any defence. Other new signings include Athletic centre-back Aitor Ocio, a player very much in the Sevilla mould, and excellent Oviedo keeper Esteban, on loan at Atletico last season. A UEFA Cup place is a definite possibility.

VALENCIA

Valencia went all out for the Champions League last season and their home form suffered as a result, leaving them outside the top four. That cost them in sporting and financial terms, only exacerbating an already messy internal situation. Jaime Orti finally won an extremely bitter presidential election, but the club's subsequent failure to deliver on his promises has exhausted the patience of coach Rafa Benitez. He has fallen out with technical secretary Garcia Petrach, whose only two signings have been virtual unknowns – Ricardo Oliveira from Santos and Fabian Canobbio from Penarol. Benitez continues to insist upon the arrival of a right-back, but to no avail. Then there's Valencia's long-running Achilles heel: a goalscorer. Samuel Eto'o, Fernando Morientes and Mario Jardel were all in the frame, but none has arrived, perhaps offering Salva Ballesta another opportunity. Rumours about the departure of Roberto Ayala, Santiago Canizares, Pablo Aimar and Ruben Baraja have hardly helped the already strained atmosphere, and Kily Gonzalez looks certain to leave for Inter. An under-achieving season could await.

VALLADOLID

One of those almost invisible clubs, notable only really for playing in the coldest ground in the First Division. Valladolid look set to struggle again, having inexplicably got rid of coach Pepe More. He is replaced by Fernando Vasquez, for whom Valladolid are his sixth top-flight club in just eight years. Few new faces have joined the Castilian outfit, with the notable exceptions of Ariza Makukula, the Second Division's top scorer in 2001-02, and Argentinian striker Martin Cardetti from Paris Saint-Germain. Having failed on his last attempt to make it in Spain back in 1998-99, Cardetti will see this as a second chance. Even so, with the exception of Fernando Sales, Valladolid are short on creativity and firepower.

VILLARREAL

Could spring a surprise or two this year. Benito Floro's methodical approach showed signs of turning them round last season and they have bought cleverly this summer. New faces, all at little or no cost, include striker Sonny Anderson (which should see the ineffective Martin Palermo permanently confined to the bench), centre-back Fabricio Coloccini, Jose Mari and Roger – the scorer of not one but two goals from the halfway line last season. They will, however, be losing Jorge Lopez after president Fernando Roig surprisingly accused him, on the eve of the InterToto Final, of not being "committed" to the team. Villarreal could manage a decent run in the UEFA Cup, but they'll be hoping that doesn't affect their domestic form. If they can balance those duties, a return to the UEFA Cup in 2004-05 could be on the cards.

ZARAGOZA

Of the three promoted sides, Zaragoza are the most likely to survive, and might do so comfortably. They have the stadium, the fans and the history of a First Division club. They have also got the money and have put together an impressive-looking side, adding ex-Real Madrid winger-turned-striker Savio. He will prove a fantastic signing if he can add consistency to his undoubted quality. Coach Paco Flores also boasts the centre-back that Real Madrid turned down on medical grounds, Gabriel Milito, and Sporting Gijon centre-forward David Villa. Quick, skilful, and a great finisher, he was the outstanding player in last season's Second Division, scoring 20 times. Villa could become an instant hit.

Passed fit...Real Madrid reject Gabriel Milito has been welcomed at Zaragoza

ALBACETE

GOALKEEPERS
ALMUNIA
Joaquin MOSO
RAUL Nunez Aural
Carlos ROA (Arg)

DEFENDERS
CATALA
MARCINHO (Bra)
OSCAR MONTIEL Marin
PABLO Ibanez
PEDRO Hernandez
Francisco PENA
Gustavo Lionel SIVIERO (Arg)
UNAI Vergara

MIDFIELDERS
ALVARO Rubio
DAVID ALVAREZ
Ludovic DELPORTE (Fra)
IVAN DIAZ Ruiz
Garba LAWAL (Nig)
MANOLO
Christian MARTINEZ
PRUDEN
Jose Vicente SIMEON
Laurent VIAUD (Fra)

FORWARDS
Gabriel AMATO (Arg)
BASTI
CACA (Bra)
CARLOS ARANDA
GOIANO (Bra)
MIKEL Agirregomezcorta
PABLO GARCIA

COACH
Cesar FERRANDO

OUT: Cano (Almeria), Jesus Perera (Mallorca), Munteanu (Atletico)

ATHLETIC BILBAO

GOALKEEPERS
Daniel ARANZUBIA
ESCALONA
Inaki LAFUENTE

DEFENDERS
CESAR Fernandez
Asier DEL HORNO
Andoni IRAOLA
Aitor KARANKA
Jesus Maria LACRUZ
Aitor LARRAZABAL
LUIS PRIETO Zilbidegoitia
Ander MURILLO
OSKAR VALES Varela

MIDFIELDERS
Endika BORDAS
FELIPE Gurendez
Julen GUERRERO
Carlos GURPEGI
JAVI GONZALEZ
Jon Andoni Garcia, JONAN
Pablo ORBAIZ
TIKO
Francisco YESTE

FORWARDS
Aritz ADURIZ
Joseba ARRIAGA
Joseba ETXEBERRIA
Santiago EZQUERRO
Ismael URZAIZ

COACH
Ernesto VALVERDE

OUT: David Karanka (Murcia), Aitor Ocio (Sevilla), Larrainzar (Cordoba), Alkiza (Sociedad), Urrutia (retired)

ATLETICO MADRID

GOALKEEPERS
German BURGOS (Arg)
JUANMA
PINDADO
SERGIO SANCHEZ

DEFENDERS
Luis CARRERAS Ferrer
Cosmin CONTRA (Rom)
Jose Antonio GARCIA CALVO
GASPAR
Mirsad HIBIC (Bos)
Juan Manuel ORTIZ
PINOLA
Santiago Denia Sanchez, SANTI
SERGI Barjuan Esclusa

MIDFIELDERS
Carlos AGUILERA Martin
Gonzalo COLSA
EMERSON Moises Costa (Bra)
Jose Maria MOVILLA Cubero
Catalin MUNTEANU (Rom)
Kiki MUSAMPA (Hol)
Domingo NAGORE Arbizu
NANO
Veljko PAUNOVIC (Ser)
RODRIGO Fabri (Bra)
Diego SIMEONE (Arg)
Jovan STANKOVIC (Yug)

FORWARDS
Fernando Edgardo CORREA Ayala
FERNANDO Jose TORRES Sanz
Javier Moreno Varela, JAVI MORENO
Demis NIKOLAIDIS (Gre)

COACH
Gregorio MANZANO

OUT: Fresnedoso (Murcia), Juan Gomez (retired), Aragones (Getafe), Estaban (Sevilla), Luis Garcia (Barcelona), Albertini (Lazio), Coloccini, Jose Mari (both Milan), Armando, Otero, Luque (Malaga), Njegus, Lawal (Albacete), Andres Suarez (Sevilla) Cubillo, Dani (released)

BARCELONA

GOALKEEPERS
Roberto BONANO (Arg)
RUSTU Recber (Tur)
VICTOR VALDES

DEFENDERS
Patrik ANDERSSON (Swe)
MARIO
Rafael MARQUEZ (Mex)
NAVARRO
Carles PUYOL
Michael REIZIGER (Hol)

MIDFIELDERS
Philip COCU (Hol)
Gabriel Garcia de la Torre, GABRI
GERARD Lopez
Andres INIESTA
LUIS ENRIQUE
LUIS GARCIA
Thiago MOTTA (Bra)
RICARDO QUARESMA (Por)
Juan Roman RIQUELME (Arg)
Xavier Hernandez Creus, XAVI

FORWARDS
ALFONSO Perez
Daniel Garcia Lara, DANI
Patrick KLUIVERT (Hol)
Marc OVERMARS (Hol)
RONALDINHO (Bra)
Javier SAVIOLA (Arg)

COACH
Frank RIJKAARD (Hol)

OUT: Nano (Atletico), Enke (Fenerbahce), Rochemback (Sporting Lisbon), De Boer (Galatasaray), Mendieta (Lazio), Sorin (Cruzeiro), Geovanni (Benfica), Christanval (Marseille)

BETIS

GOALKEEPERS
Pedro CONTRERAS
Antonio DOBLAS
Tony PRATS
VALERIO

DEFENDERS
David BELENGUER
JUANITO Gutierrez
Alejandro LEMBO (Uru)
LUIS FERNANDEZ
MARCOS ASSUNCAO (Bra)
MINGO
David RIVAS
Washington TAIS (Uru)

MIDFIELDERS
Arturo Garcia Munoz, ARZU
BENJAMIN Zarandona
Jose Antonio CALADO (Por)
Juan Jose CANAS
Jesus Capitan Prada, CAPI
Iulian FILIPESCU (Rom)
Antonion Alvarez, ITO
Fernando VARELA

FORWARDS
Gaston CASAS (Arg)
Daniel Martin Alexandre, DANI
DENILSON de Oliveira (Bra)
JOAQUIN Sanchez
ISMAEL
Jorge Lopez Marco, TOTE

COACH
Victor FERNANDEZ

OUT: Gaspercic (Alaves), Alfonso (Barcelona), Cesar, Estevez (both Cordoba), Joao Tomas (Guimaraes)

CELTA VIGO

GOALKEEPERS
Pablo CAVALLERO (Arg)
Jose Manuel PINTO (Por)

DEFENDERS
Magnolo Eduardo BERIZZO (Arg)
Fernando Gabriel CACERES (Arg)
Pablo COIRA
Pablo CONTRERAS (Chl)
JUANFRAN
Sebastien Ariel MENDEZ (Arg)
SERGIO Fernandez
SILVINHO (Bra)
Juan VELASCO

MIDFIELDERS
ANGEL Lopez
Luis Eduardo Schmidt, EDU (Bra)
Everton GIOVANELLA (Bra)
Pablo GUSTAVO LOPEZ (Arg)
Alejandro Castro Fernandez, JANDRO
JOSE IGNACIO
Peter LUCCIN (Fra)
Alexander MOSTOVOI (Rus)
Rogerio Nunes VAGNER (Bra)
YERAY Orteaga

FORWARDS
Henrique de Silva, CATANHA
JESULI
Savo MILOSEVIC (Ser)

COACH
Miguel Angel LOTINA

OUT: Alumnia (Albacete), Doriva (Middlesbrough), McCarthy (Porto), Hossam (Marseille)

DEPORTIVO LA CORUNA

GOALKEEPERS
JUANMI
Jose Francisco MOLINA

DEFENDERS
Joan CAPDEVILA
CESAR Martin
Goran DJOROVIC (Ser)
HECTOR Berenguel
JORGE ANDRADE (Por)
MANUEL PABLO Garcia
Noureddine NAYBET (Mor)
PABLO AMO
Enrique Fernandez ROMERO

MIDFIELDERS
Roberto ACUNA (Par)
Jose Emilio AMAVISCA
DJALMINHA (Bra)
Aldo Pedro DUSCHER (Arg)
FERNANDO Sanchez
FRAN
JAIME Sanchez
MAURO de SILVA Gomes (Bra)
Lionel Sebastian SCALONI (Arg)
SERGIO
Juan Carlos VALERON
VICTOR Sanchez

FORWARDS
CHANGUI
DIEGO TRISTAN
Albert LUQUE
Walter PANDIANI (Uru)

COACH
Javier IRURETA

OUT: Makaay (Bayern Munich), Dani Mallo, Jose Manuel (both Elche), Donato (released)

ESPANYOL

GOALKEEPERS
GORKA
Erwin LEMMENS (Bel)
TONI

DEFENDERS
Marc BERTRAN
DAVID GARCIA De la Cruz
Cyril DOMORAUD (IvC)
JARQUE
Alberto LOPO
Antonio SOLDEVILLA
Moreno TORRICELLI (Ita)
Pierre WOME (Cam)

MIDFIELDERS
ALEX FERNANDEZ Sanchez
FREDSON (Bra)
HECTOR
Angel MORALES
TAYFUN Korkut (Tur)
Antonio VELAMAZAN

FORWARDS
Adrian BASTIA (Arg)
Jordi CRUYFF (Hol)
MANEL
Maximiliano Rodriguez, MAXI (Arg)
RAUL MOLINA
Raul TAMUDO

COACH
Javier CLEMENTE

OUT: Juvenal (Racing), Posse (Pachuca), Sergio Sanchez (Atletico), Roger (Villarreal)

MALAGA

GOALKEEPERS
Francesc ARNAU
CALATAYUD

DEFENDERS
ALEXIS
FERNANDO SANZ
Raul IZNATA
JOSEMI
LITOS (Por)
Roberto ROJAS (Chl)
Vicente VALCARCE

MIDFIELDERS
GERARDO
JUANITO
Ivan LEKO (Cro)
LUQUE
MANU
MIGUEL ANGEL
Clever Marcelo ROMERO (Uru)

FORWARDS
Manuel CANABAL
Federico INSUA (Arg)
KOKE

COACH
Juande RAMOS

OUT: Contreras (Betis), Dely Valdes (Nacional, Uru), Dario Silva (Sevilla), Musampa (Atletico), Roteta (Murcia), Bravo (Rayo), Sandro (Levante)

MALLORCA

GOALKEEPERS
Albert CIFUENTES
LEO FRANCO (Arg)
MIKI

DEFENDERS
BUADES
CORTES
Cristian DIAZ (Arg)
Miguel Angel NADAL
Fernando NINO
Javier OLAIZOLA
POLI

MIDFIELDERS
Alejandro CAMPANO
Ariel Miguel IBAGAZA (Arg)
Harold LOZANO (Col)
MARCOS Martin
Alvaro NOVO
Francisco 'PACO' SOLER
Julian ROBLES
VICENTE FERNANDEZ

FORWARDS
Leo BIAGINI (Arg)
Arnold BRUGGINK (Hol)
CARLOS Dominguez
Samuel ETO'O (Cam)
JESUS PERERA

COACH
Jaime PACHECO (Por)

OUT: Serrizuela (Nantes), Riera (Bordeaux), Turu Flores, Lozano (Pachuca), Miquel Soler, Lussenhoff (Tenerife), Pandiani (Deportivo), Angel (Oviedo)

Names in bold italic are new signings

MURCIA

GOALKEEPERS
Javier SANCHEZ BROTO

DEFENDERS
Ricardo Alfonso CARRERO
Rafael CLAVERO
IBAN CUADRADO
JUANMA
JULIO CESAR (Bra)
PEDRO LARGO Carazo
Mikel ROTETA

MIDFIELDERS
Jose Luis ACCIARI (Arg)
FREDI
Roberto FRESNEDOSO
Jose Antonio GOMEZ
Carlos ISACH
JAVIER DELGADO
JULIO ALVAREZ
MICHEL
Francisco 'PANCHO' MACIEL (Arg)
SETVALLS

FORWARDS
DAVID KARANKA
Juan Eduardo ESNAIDER (Arg)
LUIS GARCIA
Diego Jesus QUINTANA
RICHI

COACH
Joaquin PEIRO

OUT: Tito (Levante), Reinke (Werder Bremen), Ismael (Alaves), Albiol (Valencia), Mikel Lasa, Robles

OSASUNA

GOALKEEPERS
ELIA
Ricardo SANZOL
XABI PASCUAL

DEFENDERS
ANTONIO LOPEZ Gutierrez
Cesar CRUCHAGA
IZQUIERDO
JOSETXO
Francisco Javier JUSUE
Jose Manuel MATEO
UNAI EXPOSITO

MIDFIELDERS
ALFREDO Sanchez
LOPERENA
Mohammed El Yaagoubi, MOHA
Inaki MUNOZ
PABLO GARCIA (Uru)
Cesar PALACIOS
PINHEIRO
Francisco PUNAL
Gerrardo Damian RIVERO (Arg)
SOTA
VALDO

FORWARDS
John ALOISI (Aus)
IVAN ROSADO
Richard MORALES (Uru)

COACH
Javier AGUIRRE (Mex)

OUT: Paqui (Las Palmas), Yanguas (Getafe), Gorka Brit (Eibar), Manfredini (Chievo), Unzue (retired)

RACING SANTANDER

GOALKEEPERS
Dudu AWAT (Isr)
Francisco BORJA
Jose Maria CEBALLOS

DEFENDERS
Ilan BACHAR (Isr)
JUANMA
JUVENAL
MORA
NERU
PABLO CASAR
SIETES
TXEMA

MIDFIELDERS
AYOZE
Yossi BENAYOUN (Isr)
COLLANTES
COROMINA
MATABUENA
Diego MATEO (Arg)
Fernando MORAN
Medhi NAFTI (Fra)
PABLO LAGO
TXIKI

FORWARDS
Rodolfo BODIPO
EPITIE
Francisco Javier GUERRERO
Mario REGUEIRO (Uru)

COACH
Lucas ALCARAZ

OUT: Lemmens (Espanyol), Diego Alonso (Valencia), Arzne, Ismael, Pineda

REAL MADRID

GOALKEEPERS
Iker CASILLAS
CESAR Sanchez

DEFENDERS
BORJA
IVAN HELGUERA
Miguel Angel MICHEL SALGADO
Oscar MINAMBRES
Francisco PAVON
RAUL BRAVO
ROBERTO CARLOS (Bra)
RUBEN

MIDFIELDERS
David BECKHAM (Eng)
Esteban CAMBIASSO (Arg)
Albert CELADES
FERNANDO Miguel
Luis Filipe Madeira, FIGO (Por)
Jose Maria Gutierrez, GUTI
Claude MAKELELE (Fra)
Steve McMANAMAN (Eng)
Santiago SOLARI (Arg)
Zinedine ZIDANE (Fra)

FORWARDS
Fernando MORIENTES
Pedro MUNITIS
Javier PORTILLO
RAUL Gonzalez
RONALDO (Bra)

COACH
Carlos QUEIROZ (Por)

OUT: Tote (Betis), Flavio Conceicao (Dortmund), Ivan Campo (Bolton), Geremi (Chelsea), Julio Cesar (Murcia), Hierro (retired)

REAL SOCIEDAD

GOALKEEPERS
ALBERTO
Sander WESTERVELD (Hol)

DEFENDERS
Agustin ARANZABAL
Sergio BORIS Gonzalez
GARRIDO
Zuhaitz GURRUTXAGA
JAUREGI
Bjorn Tore KVARME (Nor)
Aitor LOPEZ REKARTE
Gabriel SCHURRER (Arg)

MIDFIELDERS
Bittor ALKIZA
ARANBURU
Francisco Javier DE PEDRO
Igor GABILONDO
Valeri KARPIN (Rus)
MIKEL ALONSO
XABI ALONSO
XABIER PRIETO

FORWARDS
Jose Javier BARKERO
Oscar DE PAULA
Darko KOVACEVIC (Ser)
LEE Chun-soo (SKo)
NIHAT Kahveci (Tur)
URANGA

COACH
Raynald DENOUEIX (Fra)

OUT: Tayfun (Espanyol), Khokhlov (Lokomotiv Moscow), Pikabea (retired)

SEVILLA

GOALKEEPERS
Juan Carlos CABALLERO
ESTEBAN Andres Suarez
Antonio NOTARIO

DEFENDERS
AITOR OCIO Carrion
ALVES (Bra)
ANTONIO LOPEZ
DAVID Castero
JAVI NAVARRO
Zoran NJEGUS (Ser)
OSCAR
PABLO ALFARO
Juan Luis REDONDO

MIDFIELDERS
ALFONSO Vera (Uru)
ANTONIO LOPEZ
BAPTISTA (Bra)
Francisco GALLARDO
JAVI CASQUERO
MARCOS VALES Ilanes
Jose Luis MARTI
Inti PODESTA (Uru)
Gerardo TORRADO (Mex)
VICTOR SALAS

FORWARDS
ANTONITO
DARIO SILVA (Uru)
German HORNOS (Uru)
LUIS GIL
Jose Antonio REYES

COACH
Joaquin CAPARROS

OUT: Fredi (Murcia), Toedtli (Recreativo), Prieto (retired), Machlas (Ajax)

VALENCIA

GOALKEEPERS
Santiago CANIZARES
JONATHAN
Andres PALOP
David RANGEL

DEFENDERS
AMARILLA
Roberto AYALA (Arg)
Amedeo CARBONI (Ita)
CURRO TORRES
DAVID NAVARRO Pedros
Jean Felix DOROTHEE (Fra)
FABIO AURELIO (Bra)
Javier GARRIDO
JUANLU HENS
Carlos MARCHENA
Mauricio PELLEGRINO (Arg)

MIDFIELDERS
Pablo AIMAR (Arg)
David ALBELDA
ALBIOL
Miguel Angel ANGULO
Ruben BARAJA
Fabian CANOBBIO (Uru)
Gonzalo DE LOS SANTOS (Uru)
KILY GONZALEZ (Arg)
PARRI
Francisco Javier RUFETE
VICENTE Rodriguez

FORWARDS
John CAREW (Nor)
DIEGO Martin ALONSO (Uru)
JUAN SANCHEZ
MISTA
Ricardo OLIVEIRA (Bra)
SALVA
XISCO

COACH
Rafa BENITEZ

OUT: Djukic (Tenerife), Reveillere (Lyon), Serban

VALLADOLID

GOALKEEPERS
Albano BIZZARRI (Arg)
JON ANDER Lopez
Herman ORCELLET (Arg)

DEFENDERS
JONATHAN
OSCAR SANCHEZ Fuentes
PABLO PAZ (Arg)
Juan Manuel PENA (Bol)
Manuel TENA
Javier TORRES GOMEZ

MIDFIELDERS
Jose Luis CAMINERO
CHEMA
Dragan CIRIC (Ser)
JAVI JIMENEZ
JESUS Sanchez
OSCAR Gonzalez
Pablo Javier RICHETTI (Arg)
Francisco David SOUSA

FORWARDS
Martin CARDETTI (Arg)
FERNANDO SALES
Roberto LOSADA
Ariza MAKUKULA (Por)
Valentin PACHON

COACH
Fernando VASQUEZ

OUT: Gaspar, Colsa (both Atletico), Antonio Lopez (Sevilla), Aganzo, Marcos, Mario, Mustafa, Santamaria

VILLARREAL

GOALKEEPERS
LOPEZ VALLEJO
Jose Manuel REINA

DEFENDERS
Rodolfo ARRUABARRENA (Arg)
Sergio Martinez BALLESTEROS
BELLETTI (Bra)
Fabricio COLOCCINI (Arg)
JAVI VENTA
QUICHE ALVAREZ

MIDFIELDERS
Javier CALLEJA
JORGE LOPEZ Montana
JOSICO
ROGER Garcia
SENNA

FORWARDS
Sonny ANDERSON (Bra)
Jose Antonio GUAYRE
JOSE MARI
Martin PALERMO (Arg)
VICTOR Manuel

COACH
Benito FLORO

OUT: Unai, Carlos Aranda (both Albacete), Quique Medina, Ruben Reyes (Getafe), Farinos (Inter)

ZARAGOZA

GOALKEEPERS
Cesar LAINEZ
RUBEN
Raul VALBUENA

DEFENDERS
Luis Carlos CUARTERO
Jordi FERRON
Gabriel MILITO (Arg)
PABLO Javier
PACO
Cesar Miguel REBOSIO (Per)
TOLEDO (Par)

MIDFIELDERS
CANI
CORONA
DAVID PIRRI
David GENERELO
INAKI
JESUS Munoz
Leonardo PONZIO (Arg)
Fernando SORIANO
Martin VELLISCA

FORWARDS
Mate BILIC (Cro)
Goran DRULIC (Ser)
Luciano GALLETTI (Arg)
IBAN ESPADAS (Esp)
SAVIO Bortolini (Bra)
David VILLA
YORDI

COACH
Paco FLORES

OUT: Galca (Villarreal), Aguado, Aragon (retired), Jamelli, Kolmjelovic

Bouncing back

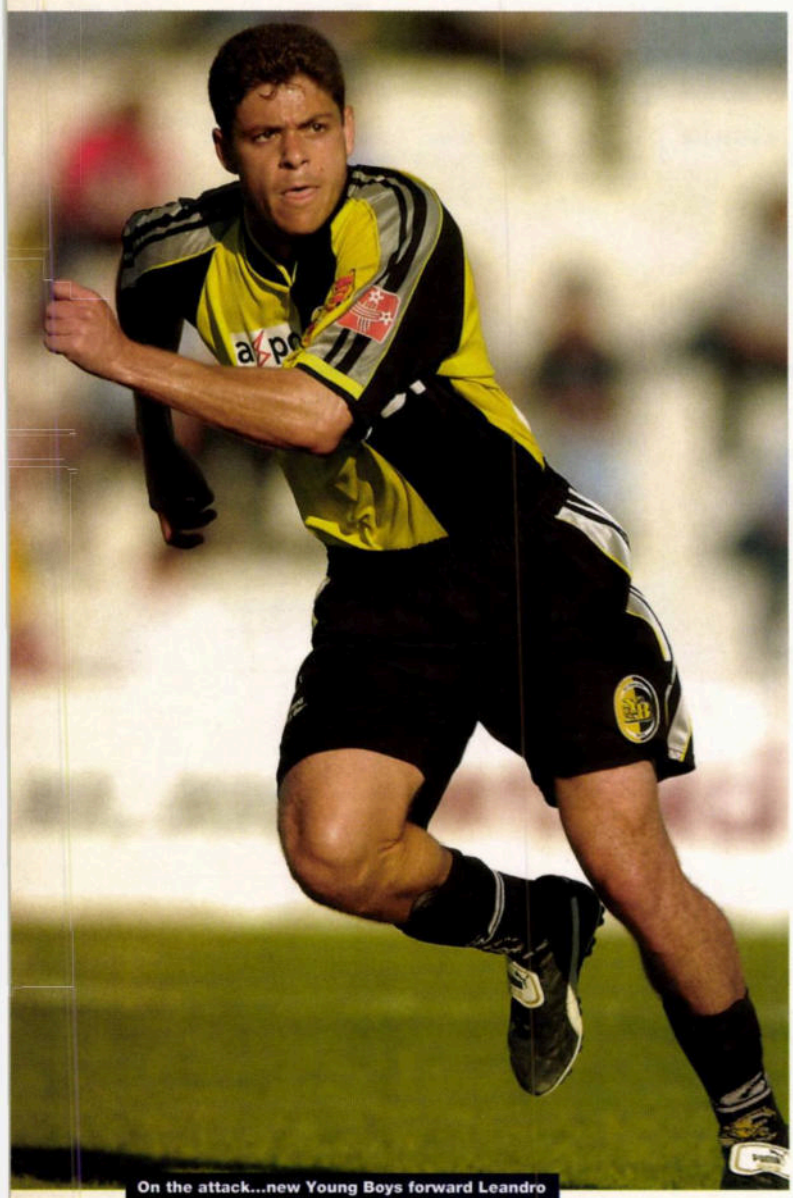
The champions face a renewed challenged from Basle. Ivar von Rulach reports

GRASSHOPPER

The standard bearers of Swiss club football and the country's most successful team (27 League titles and 18 Cups) had a poor start to the new season with just three points after four games. But coach Marcel Koller, who moved to Grasshopper in January 2002, is confident they can retain their title. A strict disciplinarian, Koller is no respecter of personalities or reputations – witness his refusal to extend the contract of national idol and star striker Stephane Chapuisat.

Koller will have been disappointed at his side's recent indiscipline – in the defeat at Aarau the champions were reduced to eight men after three dismissals, including that of key Argentinian defender Fernando Gamboa. Attacking midfielder Ricardo Cabanas, who joined French side Guingamp, has been replaced by 26-year-old Argentinian Jose Manuel Chatruc, and another midfielder – 20-year-old Nigerian Alfred Emejereye – has also been signed up.

HOW THEY LINE UP
Borer – Spycher, Schwegler, Castillo, Lichtsteiner – Tararache, Mitreski – Nunez, Eduardo, Alfred – Petric.



On the attack...new Young Boys forward Leandro

AND THE REST...

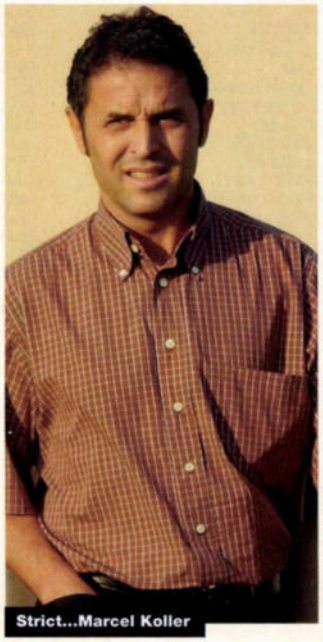
After their excellent Champions League run last season, which brought in around £11 million, **BASLE** are expected to have the edge in class and experience over the relatively young players from rivals Grasshopper. Except for the departure of Hakan Yakin to Paris Saint-Germain, coach Christian Gross can count on the same players as last season, when Grasshopper pipped them for the title by a point. The target now is the UEFA Cup and a return to the Champions League next season when the Swiss will have two slots.

ZURICH will be bidding for one of the two UEFA Cup places under coach Lucien Favre. The young team – it includes three 17-year-olds – has been reinforced by Cameroon midfielder Augustine Simo, who made history with Neuchatel Xamax when he became the first African to captain a Swiss team, and Armenian Artur Petrosyan, from Young Boys.

AARAU coach Alain Geiger will be pinning his hopes on new signing Carlos Varela, from Basle. A UEFA Cup spot will be the height of their ambition.

At **SERVETTE**, players are unhappy at having to accept heavy pay cuts, while fans are staying away from the new 30,000-seater Stade de Geneve in protest at the club's management, currently under investigation following the revelation of a previously undisclosed debt of £880,000. Armenia defender Harutyun Vardanyan, from Young Boys, was the main summer signing.

Brazilian striker Leandro, a new signing from Neuchatel Xamax, has boosted the attack at **YOUNG BOYS**, alongside evergreen Stephane Chapuisat, now 34, who is expected to retire at the season's end.



Strict...Marcel Koller

NEUCHATEL XAMAX experienced several departures, notably Augustine Simo and Leandro as players continue to use the club as a springboard to promote their careers. New signing is Joel Griffiths from Australian side Newcastle.

ST GALLEN, Switzerland's oldest club, are going through troubled times, having struggled through the promotion/relegation play-offs last season. There is a welcome return for international defender Marc Zellweger, who failed to make his mark in Germany with Koln. Austrian coach Heinz Peischl has got rid of 18 players, including Romanian striker Ionel Gane, who has moved to Grasshopper, and Brazilians Jairo and Guido.

There have been no notable moves at **WIL**, where new coach Martin Andermatt will have to cope with recurring financial problems, though a new Ukrainian investor offers some hope.

THUN, under coach Hanspeter Latour and with a tiny budget (£880,000), are favourites for relegation.

Euro target...Okan Koc (stripes) will help fire Besiktas in the Champions League

Centenary blues

Champions Besiktas have a number of hurdles to overcome. Suna Erdem reports

BESIKTAS

Riding on a high after winning the League title in their centenary year, Besiktas have made some of the best domestic transfers, bringing in Ahmed Hassan and Okan Koc from Genclerbirligi, as well as rescuing the talented but under-used defender Emre Asik from Galatasaray. They got off to a good start by beating Samsunspor 3-1 in their first game of the season, too, but coach Mircea Lucescu's reluctance to make use of his new players has drawn criticism. Injury-prone striker Ilhan Mansiz is still absent. If he recovers form, he will be invaluable in the Champions League campaign for a team that have never quite shown the same promise internationally as at home.

HOW THEY LINE UP

Cordoba – Zago, Ronaldo Giuaro, Ahmet Yildirim – Okan Koc, Hassan, Giunti – Sergen, Ibrahim Uzulmez, Ilhan – Sinan Kaloglu.

GALATASARAY

Fatih Terim is on a revenge mission, having failed to live up to the hype following his grand return to Turkey from Italy. Helped by his new signings – Dutch defender Frank De Boer, Romanian defender Gabriel Tamas and veteran striker Hakan Sukur – his team managed to beat Liverpool in a bad-tempered pre-season game. But Galatasaray's first showing in the League, a 2-1 win against Diyarbakirspor, was far from impressive, with the defence displaying a worrying lack of pace. There is a question mark over how long the moody Hakan Sukur will last up front, having failed to find decent form for the past three years in Italy and England.

HOW THEY LINE UP

Mondragon – De Boer, Tamas, Bulent Korkmaz – Cesar Luis Prates, Ayhan Akman, Hakan Unsal – Ergun Penbe, Batista – Hakan Sukur, Umit Karan.

AND THE REST...

A late winning streak saved **ADANASPOR** from relegation last season. Experienced attacker Cafer Aydin could help them this term, but they are unlikely to impress much.

AKCAABAT SEBATSPOR, from the Black Sea, are in their first season in the top division. On the early evidence, they are likely to struggle to stay afloat.

ANKARAGUCU, from the Turkish capital, face a middle-of-the-road campaign after an inauspicious start, a 2-1 defeat by promoted Caykur Rizespor.

BURSASPOR have high hopes under the tutelage of Gheorghe Hagi, who is regarded with great reverence. Key man is last year's top scorer, Okan Yilmaz.

New boys **CAYKUR RIZESPOR** look weak, although they came from behind to beat Ankaragucu in their opening game.

DENIZLISPOR surprised everyone last season by making it into the fourth round of the UEFA Cup, but things look less bright this term.

DIYARBAKIRSPOR could put up a fight if their plucky performance in their first match, a 2-1 defeat by Galatasaray, is anything to go by.

ELAZIGSPOR, with young and inexperienced players, are an unknown quantity, but beat Genclerbirligi 3-2 in their opening game.

FENERBAHCE, last year's disaster story, lost 3-0 at home to Istanbulspor in their first game. New coach Christoph Daum has yet to find a settled team, though the strike partners are clear – Dutchman Pierre Van Hooijdonk alongside Turkey's promising Under-21 Tuncay Sanli.

GAZIANTEPSPOR show sporadic promise, but will need to work harder this season to live up to expectations.

GENCLERBIRLIGI, last year's revelation, have lost two of their best players, Ahmed Hassan and Okan Koc, which could hinder their progress.

ISTANBULSPOR have undergone modest team-building under Aykut Kocaman, a former international.

Newcomers **KONYASPOR** got off to an impressive start, drawing with Trabzonspor, although new signing Ogun Temizkanoglu (ex-Trabzonspor and Fenerbahce) was sent off.

MALATYASPOR could be the surprise team if striker Atilla Birlik, back from Germany, hits his stride.

SAMSUNSPOR look stronger than last season, but **TRABZONSPOR**, the usually consistent Black Sea team, slipped up against Konyaspor first time out. Midfielder Gokdeniz Karadeniz shows promise, but keeper Michael Petkovic could be a weak link.

Gala challenge...Frank De Boer

Also in contention...

World Soccer correspondents around Europe report on the other teams in the Champions League third qualifying round

FC COPENHAGEN (Den)

FC Copenhagen have become the most cosmopolitan side in the history of Danish club soccer, with eight different nationalities represented in their squad, including 23-year-old Brazilian striker Alvaro Santos, captured from Sweden's Helsingborgs.

Other impressive talents include South African striker Sibusiso Zuma, livewire Norwegian veteran Erik Mykland and upcoming Danes Martin Albrechtsen and Thomas Roll Larsen.

Coach Hans Backe believes Santos will add the finishing touch to a side with credible aspirations of reaching the group stage of the Champions League for the first time, saying: "He is a complete player who knows the quickest way to goal. We are already the most attacking team in the Superliga, but we have to be effective in front of goal, and Santos will be an important figure in achieving that."

The Brazilian was the most significant summer signing for a well-run club that made a £6million profit in the last financial year and whose president, Flemming Ostergaard, refuses to spend money the club doesn't have.

HOW THEY LINE UP

Raboczki – Tobiasen, Christiansen, Albrechtsen, Antonelius – Larsen, Lonstrup, Nielsen, Mykland – Zuma, Santos.

Jim Holden

CSKA SOFIA (Bul)

CSKA Sofia celebrated winning their first Bulgarian League title for six years last season, which also gave them revenge on their city rivals Levski, the previous champions.

This summer the squad has been reinforced with the signing of Brazilian midfielder Leo Lima from Vasco da Gama. He replaced Greece-bound Metodi Deyanov.

"We have been monitoring his development for a long time, and I am very pleased to sign him," said CSKA coach Stoicho Mladenov. "He likes to get forward and is a class act."

Leo Lima proved to be the difference in the second qualifying round against Pyunik of Armenia, and he weighed in with a penalty during the 3-0 aggregate win which set up a tough third-round tie with Galatasaray.

HOW THEY LINE UP

Petrov – Todorov, Gueye, Joao Carlos – Haxhi, Yanchev, Stefanov, Leo Lima, Gargarov – Joao Paulo Brito, Mukasi.

John Holmesdale

DINAMO ZAGREB (Cro)

The only Croatian club to have won a European trophy – the 1967 Fairs Cup – Dinamo have had a busy summer, during which they lost five first-team players – Tomislav Butina (Club Brugge), captain Silvio Maric (Panathinaikos), Kristijan Polovanec (Varteks Varazdin), Bosko Balaban (Aston Villa) and Ivica Olic (CSKA Moscow) – as well as experienced coach Miroslav Blazevic.

The new coach is ex-international Nikola Jurcevic, previously at FC Zagreb, who has drafted in Andre Mijatovic (Rijeka), midfielder Hrvoje Strok (Zagreb), forward Mladen Bartolovic (Cibalia Vinkovci), midfielder Ante Tomic and forward Eduardo da Silva.

The key player is Niko Kranjcar, Dinamo's teenage captain and a technically brilliant playmaker.

Dinamo continue to be troubled by hooliganism. The pre-season game against Partizan Belgrade in the Swiss town of Kriens was interrupted when fighting broke out among the "Bad blue boys", Dinamo's hard-core hooligans.

HOW THEY LINE UP

Jozic – Sedloski, Mijatovic, Drpic – Tomic, Agic, Mujcin – Kranjcar – Bartolovic, Eduardo

Zdravko Reic

KYIV DYNAMO (Ukr)

Club president Ihor Surkis recognises that Dynamo are struggling to adapt to the changing conditions of European football when he asks: "Can we compete with the likes of Milan, Real Madrid, Juventus, Manchester United? Or are we resigned to taking the role of sparring partners?"

He knows his club must adapt to survive and there have been many changes in the past five years. The late Valerii Lobanovskyi recruited Bulgarian Georgi Peev, Goran Gavrancic from Serbia, as well as Tiberiu Gioane and Florin Chernat from Romania. Last season, Croatian internationals Goran Sablic and Jerko Leko came from Dinamo Zagreb. This summer Dynamo signed Brazilian winger Mori Alessandro from Flamengo, Oleh Husev from Arsenal Kyiv and Denys Onyschenko (Maccabi Haifa). "The arrival of the foreigners has changed many things. Most importantly, we have a good combination of our experienced local players and the ambitious foreign legion," says coach Olexiy Mikhailichenko.

HOW THEY LINE UP

Shovkovskyi – Mori Alessandro, Fedorov, Gavrancic, Nesmachnyi – Bialkevich, Husin, Khatskevich – Leko – Shatskikh, Diogo Rincon.

Oleg Zadernovsky

LOKOMOTIV MOSCOW

Lokomotiv put an end to the rule of city rivals Spartak by winning the Russian League last year for the first time in the club's 65-year history. They also reached the group stage in the Champions League last season and had some fine games, including a 2-2 draw away to Real Madrid.

Though they started poorly in the domestic League in spring, they made some important mid-season summer purchases, including midfielder Dmitri Khokhlov and Georgian striker Mikhail Ashvetia. They were also boosted by the return to action of young playmaker Marat Izmailov and team captain Dmitri Loskov (last season's Russian Player of the Year). Experienced keeper Sergei Ovchinnikov is still one of Lokomotiv's biggest assets.

Supported by the Russian railways ministry, the club are one of the richest in Russia. Other recent purchases included two Brazilians from Corinthians – striker Leandro Azevedu and midfielder Jorje Wagner.

HOW THEY LINE UP

Ovchinnikov – Lekgetho, Ignashevich, Pachinin, Nizhegorodov – Izmailov, Loskov, Khokhlov, Maminov – Buznikin, Ashvetia.

Victor Gusev

MTK (Hun)

MTK have been the flagship club of Hungary since being taken over in the late 1990s by millionaire entrepreneur Gabor Varszegi. Able to buy the best players in the domestic market – such as prolific goalscorer Bela Illes, midfielder Gabor Halmai and defender Zoltan Molnar – MTK ended decades in the doldrums by winning two League titles in three seasons from 1997.

After the return of respected coach Sandor Egervari, the Blues went back to the top in 2003. It was by no means an easy achievement.

Neck-and-neck with bitter rivals Ferencvaros at the winter break, MTK picked up Brazilian striker Welton Da Silva, and showed a noticeable improvement in the quality of their play in spring. The title was decided on the last day, with Ferencvaros' failure to beat Debrecen at home gifting MTK the championship.

Buoyed by this success, and the signings of Hungarian Under-21 star Sandor Torghelle and veteran midfielder Istvan Pisont, MTK enjoyed a flying start to the new season: a

Super Cup victory over Ferencvaros, and an admittedly fortunate two-leg win over HJK Helsinki in the Champions League second qualifying round.

HOW THEY LINE UP
Vegh – Pusztai, Komlosi, Juhasz, A Fuzi – Zavadszky, Jezdimirovics, Pisont, O Szabo – Torghelle, Da Silva.

Peterjon Cresswell

PARTIZAN BELGRADE (Ser)

Despite their ambitions to qualify for the Champions League for the first time, Partizan's three best players left in the summer: attacking midfielder Zvonimir Vukic was sold to Shakhtar Donetsk; promising Under-21 striker Danko Lazovic joined Feyenoord; and central midfielder Goran Trobok became a free agent.

Working with an annual budget of less than £3m, coach Lothar Matthaus has brought in a few new faces, notably 35-year-old Ljubinko Drulovic from Benfica.

Following the departure of Vukic, the key man is now midfielder Sasa Ilic, who has a great eye for goal. Other key figures include Nigerian Taribo West, the cornerstone of a defence that is not always watertight; forward Ivica Iliev, who is clever on the counter-attack; hard working defensive midfielder Igor Duljaj; and Drulovic, back home after 11 years in Portugal but still playing well.

Matthaus has mainly used a 3-5-2 formation. But he switched to 4-4-2 in the build-up to the new season and in the second qualifying round victory over Djurgardens of Sweden.

HOW THEY LINE UP
Kralj – Cirkovic, West, Djordjevic, Malbasa – Sasa Ilic, Duljaj, Albert Nadj, Drulovic – Delibasic, Ivica Iliev.

Vladimir Novak

ROSENBORG

After eight consecutive years in the Champions League and 11

Push and shove...Zilina's Branislav Labant (right) battles Juan Veron of Chelsea in the third qualifying round first leg

consecutive domestic championships, Rosenborg are indisputably Norway's dominant club. However, this has not stopped new coach Aage Hareide from ringing the changes in recent months.

The former Molde, Helsingborgs and Brondby boss immediately set about trying to improve the defence. Vidar Riseth, a former midfielder now a stopper, was brought home from German football to play alongside veteran Erik Hoftun in central defence. Goalkeeper Arni Arason was dropped and replaced by Espen Johnsen.

In midfield, 36-year-old Bent Skammelsrud was dispensed with and replaced by Fredrik Winsnes, fresh from a successful year with Sweden's Hammarby. His ball-winning qualities complement the more subtle play of Orjan Berg and Roar Strand.

Frode Johnsen has been used as an attacking midfielder rather than a striker, playing to the right of centre-forward Harald Brattbakk in a 4-3-3 formation.

HOW THEY LINE UP

E Johnsen – Basma, Hoftun, Riseth, Stensaas – Berg, Strand, Winsnes – F Johnsen, Brattbakk, Karadas.

Sigurd Odegaard

SHAKHTAR DONETSK

Ambitious president Rinat Akhmetov has wasted no time in the summer transfer market, bringing in no fewer than seven players, from Croatia, Serbia and Romania. In total the club spent more than £10million.

Despite last year's European fiasco under Italian coach Nevio Scala, Akhmetov continues to put his trust in a foreign coach. This time he concluded a two-year deal with German Bernd Schuster, the Barcelona and Real Madrid star of the 1980s who was previously operating on a shoestring budget at Spanish Second Division side Xerez.

Shakhtar's starting line-up has been transformed from last season. New signings include Croat keeper Stipe Pletikosa, Romanian Razvan Rat and Serb playmaker Zvonimir Vukic, who has already impressed many in Ukraine with his clever play.

HOW THEY LINE UP

Pletikosa – Florea, Pazin, Rat, Starostyak – Tymoshchuk, Srna, Vukic, Lewandowski – Vorobei, Bielik.

Oleg Zadernovsky

SLAVIA PRAGUE (Cze)

Despite a solid record in other UEFA competitions and frequent appearances in the Champions League's third qualifying round, group phase participation has always eluded Slavia. This season's third qualifying round draw was typically cruel, pairing them with Celta Vigo. The club are capable of springing surprises, but they probably lack the strength-in-depth to mount a serious Champions League campaign.

That said, coach Miroslav Beranek is blessed with the strongest Slavia side for several years, combining the experience of veterans Radek Bejbl and Pavel Kuka with several talented younger players. The midfield, which now lacks Stepan Vachousek (Marseille), still has Patrik Gedeon and Richard Dostalek to provide the workrate, and Rudolf Skacel, Martin Lukes and Karel Pitak offering flair.

Beranek also has options up front. Kuka forms an effective partnership with pacy young Brazilian Adauto, while Tomas Dosek (twin of defender Lukas) is a capable deputy.

HOW THEY LINE UP

Cerny – Bejbl, Petrous, Muller, L Dosek – Skacel, Dostalek, Gedeon, Lukes – Adauto, Kuka.

Sam Beckwith

SPARTA PRAGUE (Cze)

Failure to make it through the Champions League qualifying rounds last season cost Sparta coach Jozef Jarabinsky his job, and there was every reason to expect a similar fate for his replacement, Jiri Kotrba.

Having won the Czech League eight times in the past 10 years, Champions League participation has become the only true test for anyone in the Sparta hotseat.

The management reacted to last season's failure by going on a spending spree, signing eight players over the summer. This gave Kotrba lots of options but not much time to find his ideal line-up.

Much depends on how well the new-look defence gels, how quickly Montenegrin striker Igor Gluscevic settles in, and whether 37-year-old workhorse Jiri Nemec still has the legs to match his leadership qualities.

Kotrba will also look to his trusted captain Karel Poborsky, whom he 'discovered' back in 1984 when the pair were at Ceske Budejovice. Even at 31, Poborsky still has abundant speed and skill and, on his day, can unpick almost any defence.

HOW THEY LINE UP

Blazek – Petras, Hubschman, Johana, Zboncak – Poborsky, Kovac, Nemec, Jezek – Sionko, Gluscevic.

Sam Beckwith

VARDAR SKOPJE (Mac)

Macedonian champions Vardar pulled off the biggest surprise of the Champions League so far when they beat CSKA Moscow 3-2 on aggregate to qualify for the third qualifying round.

For a club that have had problems paying their players in recent months, the victory was treated as a historic success for Macedonian football, whose clubs have only ever been humiliated in the Champions League.

Vardar's main sponsor, TV company Sport Five, has faced criticism for also backing a second team, Cementarnica, who won the Macedonian Cup last season. The links between the two clubs on the field are indisputable. Most of Vardar's key players in recent years have formerly been with Cementarnica, with the current team boasting three notable examples – Vlatko Grozdanovski, Nigerian defender Chinedu Anyanviu Blessing and Brazilian forward Wandeir.

HOW THEY LINE UP

Zekir – Veselinoski, Blessing, Brankovic – Grozdanovski, Trajcev, Zaharievski, Ristovski, Gjosevski – Oliveira, Wandeir.

Michel Stojmanovski

WISLA KRAKOW (Pol)

When Boguslaw Cupial, a cable company owner, took a controlling interest in Wisla five years ago he transformed their fortunes. Since then, they have won three League titles and two Cups, and last season confirmed their potential in Europe by defeating Parma and Schalke in the UEFA Cup.

Some critics claim that the club should have done more to strengthen their squad in the summer. But Wisla, with a £3.25m annual budget, declared that they would not be tempted to spend beyond their means.

At the same time they have lost three key players – midfielder Kamil Kosowski, loaned to Kaiserslautern; striker Marcin Kuzba, sold to Olympiakos; and Nigerian international Kalu Uche, suspended for six months after he refused to play when news first broke of interest in him from Ajax.

Coach Henryk Kasperczak has further problems: defender Arkadiusz Glowacki and Argentinian midfielder Mauro Cantoro are injured, while new Brazilian midfielder Brasilia, Togo international Lantame Ouadja and forward Damian Gorawski have had trouble adapting.

Fortunately, a major attacking weapon, striker Maciej Zurawski, is in top form, scoring four goals against Omonia in the second qualifying round.

HOW THEY LINE UP

Piekutowski – Baszczynski, Glowacki, Jop, Stolarczyk – Pater, Szymkowiak, Strak, Brasilia – Frankowski, Zurawski.

Dariusz Kurowski

MSK ZILINA (Slk)

The club have relied heavily on talisman captain and midfield playmaker Marek Mintal over the past two years. So his departure to German side Nurnberg has left a hole manager Milan Lesicky admitted would be hard to fill.

Not only was Mintal the playmaker but he was also an excellent finisher, ending last season as League joint top scorer, alongside team-mate Martin Fabus.

Fabus has stayed but unlike Chelsea, their third qualifying round opponents, Zilina were deathly quiet on the transfer market this summer. No moves were made to find a replacement for Mintal, and only one player came into the squad, returning from a loan period with a Second Division side.

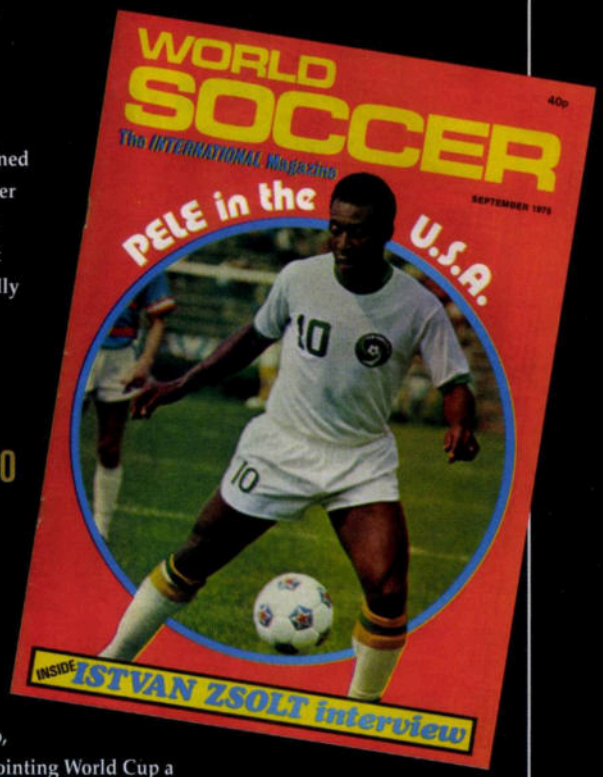
However, the side are capable of playing intelligent and disciplined football. The 2-1 aggregate win over Israeli champions Maccabi Tel Aviv in the second qualifying round was an upset but was achieved by staying compact and making sure they took their chances when they came.

HOW THEY LINE UP

Trabalik – Zabavnik, Labant, Drahno, Sninsky – Barcik, Strba, Bazik, Durica – Varadin, Fabus.

Ed Holt

WS WORLD SOCCER September 1975



FOR NEITHER THE first nor last time in his career, Pele was the cover star of *World Soccer* 28 years ago. The Brazilian was wowing the crowds in the North American Soccer League following his move to New York Cosmos. A League record attendance was set when 35,620 turned up in Washington to see the hometown Diplomats lose 9-2 to Cosmos. Only 2,140 were there the following week for Diplomats' next home game, against Philadelphia.

In Europe, Real Madrid, winners of the Spanish League and Cup double, were the subject of a four-page "dossier". The Madrid squad, wrote Keir Radnedge, was "bursting with home-grown talent" – the likes of Jose Antonio Camacho, Santillana, Alberto Vitoria and a certain Vicente Del Bosque. However, it was the older figures in the squad – Pirri, Gunter Netzer and Paul Breitner – who were expected to hold the key to progress in that season's Champions Cup.

Breitner, in particular, was being hailed for his role in Real's rejuvenation. The German international, always a controversial character, had joined from Borussia Monchengladbach a year earlier for a fee of £420,000. His midfield partnership with Netzer, who had experienced a wretched 1973-74 campaign, had contributed greatly to Madrid's domestic success.

In the 1975-76 Champions Cup, Madrid were to lose to eventual winners Bayern Munich in the semi-finals – matching the *World Soccer* prediction that they "look good quarter-final material, but not much more".

Elsewhere, Netzer explained that he was now a much better all-round player for his time spent in Spain. "It's true that my form declined dramatically after the 1972 [European Championship] Final, but I am now more confident and self-assured than ever before."

'A League record crowd of 35,620 saw Pele's New York Cosmos play at Washington Diplomats'

Across the page, Rivelino, reflecting on Brazil's disappointing World Cup a year earlier, promised that next time around we would see the "Brazil of old; in other words artistic and skilful touch-play based purely on the quest for goals and more goals. After all, that's what soccer is basically all about!"

2003 UEFA CUP FINAL

Culture clash!

Storm warning...Keir Radnedge's UEFA Cup Final report sparked a fierce debate

Celtic: the debate continues...

AS A LOYAL subscriber to your magazine for the past couple of years I am extremely disappointed with your recent comments regarding Celtic and in particular the UEFA Cup.

You state in your Summer edition that there is no quality in the UEFA Cup, and I find these comments to be crazy and very unwise.

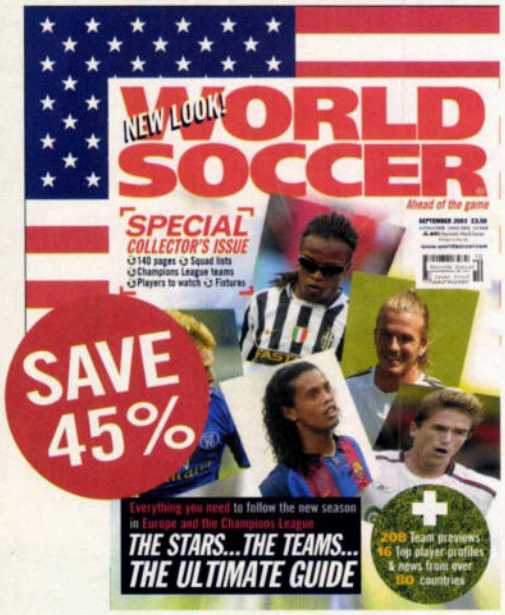
For your information, on the way to the Final this year Celtic defeated a host of top-class teams. They beat Stuttgart, who finished second only to the might of Bayern Munich in the Bundesliga. They defeated Liverpool and Blackburn, who finished fifth and sixth respectively in the strong English Premiership – Liverpool, of course, beat Manchester United in the League Cup Final, which, as you know, United were particularly keen to win this year.

Celta Vigo, who finished fourth in Spain, arguably the best and most competitive league in the world, were also beaten on the road to the Final.

In the Final itself Celtic were beaten fairly and squarely by an excellent Porto side with bags of Champions League experience. I defy anyone who knows the game to claim the above teams are not "quality".

I also find your snide remarks about how many

EXCLUSIVE OFFER FOR USA READERS



Subscribe and pay only $49.30, saving 45% on the full yearly price of $89.65

(For 2-year rates please call the number below and quote code 41R)

- Hurry, offer ends at the end of the month!
- World Soccer delivered direct to your door anywhere in the USA
- Never miss an issue

Call toll free on: 1-888-313-5528
(lines open Mon-Fri 9am-8pm, Sat 9am-1pm EST and quote code 41R)
Or go to: www.worldsoccer.com * please note online offer may vary

This offer is open to USA readers only and closes on 30/09/03. Please allow 8 weeks for the delivery of your first subscription issue. For general enquiries please phone +44(0)845-676-7778. IPC Media Limited, publisher of World Soccer, will collect your personal information to process your subscription and to gain a better understanding of our magazine readership. We may send you details on magazines and services. Please tick here if you prefer not to hear from IPC ☐ We may pass your details to other reputable companies whose products and services may be of interest to you. Please tick here if you prefer not to receive such offers ☐

SEND YOUR ORDER TO:

World Soccer Subscriptions,
C/O Mercury International, 365 Blair Road, Avenel, NJ 07001
(please attach correct postage)

YES! I WOULD LIKE TO SUBSCRIBE TO WORLD SOCCER FOR:
☐ 1 year (13 issues), saving 45% on the full price

MY DETAILS:
Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms: Forename:
Surname:
Address:
Zip code:
Country/State:
Home Tel. No.: (Include country/area code)
E-mail:
Date of Birth: D D M M Y Y Y Y

PAYMENT DETAILS:
I enclose cheque/international money order for $_____
made payable to IPC Media Ltd

Or please debit my: ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ Amex

Expiry Date: / / /

Signature:
(I am over 18)

Quote Code 41R Closing Date: September 30, 2003

supporters different clubs have to be unfortunate. I appreciate that the teams you mentioned in your reply to Patrick Woods are the biggest and best supported in the world but someone in your position should know that a club like Celtic is not far behind in terms of support.

In fact, as Nigel Spackman (ex-Rangers and Liverpool) recently stated, if the Old Firm were one day invited to England then Celtic, in particular, in about 10 years' time, would be challenging Manchester United in terms of support due to their tremendous worldwide appeal and potential.

How many teams can take 30,000 fans to away testimonials, after all?

Graham Strain, by e-mail

I CAN'T BELIEVE the nonsense that *World Soccer* have had to put up with after the Celtic v Porto UEFA Cup Final. The match report was a well-balanced and well-written reflection on what should have been remembered as a gala occasion.

Yes, it is fair to say that Celtic brought huge support to Seville, but games are not won by the number of fans in attendance.

The letters sent to *World Soccer* reflect a small aspect of the unfortunate nonsense we are subjected to in Scotland, be it conspiracy theory, players making outrageous comments (Celtic's Chris Sutton: "We knew Dunfermline would let Rangers win") or club officials appearing to excuse in advance fans' misbehaviour at an Old Firm game (Celtic's then chief executive Ian McLeod regarding the League's decision to schedule the match only three days after his side had played in Europe).

The whole episode would be funny if it wasn't for the sobering reminder that these people genuinely believe in all the alleged injustices and media bias. Keep up the wonderful journalism, guys, more people will respect you for it than the narrow-minded few who just can't accept it.

Alistair Thorn, by e-mail

JUST WHEN WILL Henrik Larsson receive some kind of profile in *World Soccer*?

I have been an avid reader of the magazine for some time and it disappoints me greatly to see players profiled who have done nothing compared to this great servant of Celtic and Sweden.

Just to remind you, he has scored in two World Cup finals, Euro 2000 (only a few months after a horrific broken leg), has also won the ESM Golden Shoe, and for good measure scored two goals in this year's UEFA Cup Final. Maybe it's because he plays in the 'backwater' League of Scotland, but those achievements happened internationally.

Regarding Gavin Hamilton's reply to the Celtic fans who wrote complaining about Keir Radnedge's UEFA Cup Final report, I do not want to go over old ground but Hamilton made some pretty outrageous remarks.

To suggest that there were bad tackles only by Celtic players is wrong. I have watched the match a few times and there were no bad challenges by either side. Certainly the Celtic players were committed but no more so than Jorge Costa and his 'shrinking violet' team.

Finally, we in Scotland are used to the snobbery of the football authorities worldwide when it comes to our League. What disappoints me greatly is that your magazine is going down the same road.

I won't hold my breath for a reply or a Henrik Larsson profile. You probably have some wonderkid to interview.

Mark Holloran, by e-mail

Gavin Hamilton replies: We first profiled Henrik Larsson in December 1996, when he was still at Feyenoord. He was featured again in October 2001 (page 6) after he collected the ESM Golden Shoe award. Even in the current age of celebrity footballers, Larsson is notoriously reluctant to give interviews. If he were to change his mind, we would happily feature him.

I think it's time to draw a line under the Celtic-Porto debate. Thank you for all your contributions.

Wot, no USA?

I HAVE BEEN a regular reader of your excellent magazine for a number of years now but the last two issues have disappointed me. I'm interested in the way the game is developing in the USA and MLS in particular. Does the recent lack of articles about US soccer mean that you are no longer following the game there?

I know you have a number of American readers and find this very surprising, particularly as you continue to print articles about Mexico. Please explain.

Keep up the good work.

Malcolm Purvis, Birmingham

Gavin Hamilton replies: We've always covered the USA. Last month, Paul Gardner's report focused on the Gold Cup. This month, our coverage is more prominent, with Paul's USA Dispatches on page 28.

QUIZ mitre

WIN a top-quality Mitre football

Mitre has kindly donated a top-quality football for this month's quiz. The first correct entry selected at random after September 26 will win the ball. Five runners-up will each win a *World Soccer Yearbook*.

SEND YOUR ENTRY, ON A POSTCARD, TO: SEPTEMBER QUIZ, *World Soccer*, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS

THIS MONTH'S POSER:

Name 15 players who have played for clubs in the top divisions in England, Italy and Spain.

AUGUST CROSSWORD SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Barberis, 6 Cois, 7 Boloni, 9 Santos, 10 Lange, 11 Lille, 14 Jubilo, 16 Sartor, 17 Mild, 18 Eriberto.
DOWN: 2 Atouba, 3 Riise, 4 Schneider, 5 Mido, 8 Onigbinde, 12 Lobont, 13 Cosmi, 15 Umit.

AUGUST CROSSWORD WINNERS

1st prize: Declan Moran, Co Dublin, Republic of Ireland.
5 runners-up: Antonello Tabone, Gozo, Malta; Iacovos Hasapis, Paphos, Cyprus; Sarah Briggs, Ohio, USA; Abu Kamara, Patra, Greece; Andy Sayers, Rutland, Leics.

Please mark your correspondence 'Letters page' and send to:
World Soccer, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS
Fax: +44 (0) 20 7261 7474
E-mail: worldsoccerletters@ipcmedia.com

In the first of a new series, Brian Glanville reflects on the life and work of Vittorio Pozzo

The Italian Anglophile

A CURIOUS strain of ambivalence seems to run through Italian football. You can trace it from the days of Vittorio Pozzo, *commissario tecnico* of the *Azzurri* for 20 years, winner of two World Cups, a man who learned the game in pre-Great War England, right the way through to Enzo Bearzot, who won the World Cup in 1982. A kind of double-think, whereby a strong idealistic attitude to the game can coincide with almost ruthless pragmatism, the tolerance of hard, even violent, players, whose misdeeds are often overlooked.

Pozzo and Bearzot were both well-educated men. Pozzo, born in Piedmont, a founder of Turin's Torino club, was initially a runner, persuaded to play football by a friend who told him he looked ridiculous when running without a ball in front of him. Sent to England to study the language by his parents, he soon left London, where he said there were too many Italians looking for one another to spend time together. Instead he went to the Midlands, where he began his romance with English soccer, waiting shyly outside football grounds to speak to such Titans of the time as Steve Bloomer, the prolific Derby County inside-right, and Charlie Roberts, the attacking centre-half of Manchester United. His conversations with them and his observations of the English game imbued him with an admiration for the classical style of

Mind games...Pozzo (far left) was a shrewd psychologist

Trophy retained...Pozzo and Italy celebrate their second successive World Cup triumph in 1938

wing-halves on the flanks, full-backs in the middle, and a roving centre-half who initiated and joined in attacks.

When the third-back game enslaved English football from the mid-1920s, Pozzo was impervious to it; he won the World Cup in 1934 and 1938 without it. But he first took charge of the Italy side by urgent request of the young federation as early as 1912, when a team had been entered for the Olympic tournament in Stockholm. There, the Italians were well beaten by Austria, but Pozzo began a long-lasting friendship with his Austrian equivalent, Hugo Meisl. Since the Italians had gone down only by the odd goal of five in the tournament proper, then beaten the Swedish hosts 2-0 in the consolation competition before losing to the Austrians, Pozzo had good reason for optimism.

'Mad' match

Boldly, he and Meisl now arranged a match in Turin the following Easter between Juventus and the Viennese Amateur Sports Club. The horrified Prefect of Turin, given the bad relations then between Italy and Austria, asked Pozzo whether he'd ever been in a lunatic asylum: "So many towns in Italy, and you have to choose Turin!" On the morning of the game half the Turin garrison was mobilised, but all passed off peacefully and amicably.

When Pozzo took over the *Azzurri* in 1929 it was his third time in charge. He'd resigned after the first Italy-Austria international, resumed before the 1924 Olympic tournament, resigned again when his wife died, but returned in 1929. By now it was the Fascist era, and though Pozzo was never a Fascist himself, he used the nationalist spirit of the times to his own advantage. "Kind, with a strong hand," he once told me. "If I let them make mistakes, I lose my authority."

But he was always the shrewdest of psychologists. English players, he said, could be dealt with collectively, Italians always individually. If two players had quarrelled in a club match, he simply made them share the same room, brushing complaints aside. It always worked. A French journalist called him "the poor captain of a company of millionaires", while Pozzo thought that "perhaps this was the secret of my success". An authoritarian, then, who when at Marseille in the first match of the 1938 World Cup, with his team being jeered by ex-pat dissidents while giving the pre-kick-off Fascist salute, ordered the players to hold their pose until the jeering subsided. And who deployed a team in the 1934 World Cup, played in Italy, whose methods appalled some observers – not least in the first of two games against Spain, when the Spanish keeper Ricardo Zamora was so maltreated that he couldn't appear in the replay.

'Pozzo ordered his players to hold the Fascist salute until the jeering of the crowd subsided'

That the Italy centre-half was Luisito Monti of Argentina was also significant. First, because Pozzo so readily used so-called *oriundi*, men who were Italian by descent but South American by nurture (there were three Argentinians in Italy's winning team of 1934). Secondly, because Monti was a renowned thug, with whom Pozzo replaced the elegant Roman centre-half Fulvio Bernardini. "The public say 'clever Bernardini'," Pozzo told Monti, "but you hold up the play."

In November 1934, Italy as world champions came to Highbury to meet England, with seven Arsenal players in the home team. After only 90 seconds Monti took a kick on the foot in a challenge with the England centre-forward Ted Drake. It broke a bone, left him in severe pain, and caused him to leave the field, reducing Italy to 10 men. Their ensuing violence caused the game to go down in England as 'The Battle of Highbury', but in Italy it has been eulogised, a match almost saved by 'The Lions of Highbury'. Eddie Hapgood, England's left-back, had his nose deliberately broken by an Italian elbow. Pozzo made no apologies.

"The play of the England team," he observed, generously, "made a wonderful impression. Judging by their play at Highbury, they remain the better players. Manipulation of the ball with both feet, with the head or the chest, is miraculous. The physical condition of the players is exceptional. This constitutes the real basis of superiority." He added that "the formidable violence of the charge takes one's breath away. One begins to wonder whether it is possible for Continental footballers to withstand such methods." But by the 1950s, he found British football stereotyped and "mechanised", with players who "do well enough when playing in accordance with their club tactics, but in international football they are failures".

Game over

This could hardly be said of the England team whose 4-0 win in Turin in May 1948 put an end to Pozzo's stewardship. By then he had reluctantly embraced the third-back game and based his team on the all-conquering Torino side. It was no match for the baffling wiles of Stanley Matthews and Tom Finney on the England wings, though the Italians deserved better from a game in which they were thwarted by the superb goalkeeping of Frank Swift.

The following year, alas, Pozzo was called to identify the bodies of the Torino players killed in the air crash at Superga. He wrote about it with deep feeling for his newspaper, Turin's *La Stampa*, to which he contributed cogently for many years.

Milton Keynes or bust

Howard Johnson talks to both sides in English football's bitterest split

Wot, no fans?...Wimbledon's Jermaine Darlington leaps above Ben Rix of Crewe at a largely deserted Selhurst Park

PETER WINKELMAN had a dream. It started when two lads who were playing for a local football team were spotted by a scout. The boys were invited for trials at Wycombe Wanderers, near enough to their home in Milton Keynes, but still 25 miles away. Winkleman decided to take them himself.

Well, he would, wouldn't he? One of them was his son. But battling against the traffic, the journey took a whopping two hours. The other lad soon got fed up and stopped making the journey. And before too long this boy, who came from a difficult family background, gave up on football, got involved in some less savoury stuff, and ended up in a young offenders' institute.

You may call it a naive conclusion to draw, but Winkelman honestly believed that if Milton Keynes had a football club and an affiliated academy of its own, then the boy wouldn't have given up on the sport and been lost along the way. More importantly, Winkelman decided it was up to him to do something about it.

It's on the back of this simple story that another football club, First Division Wimbledon FC, situated 70 miles away in South London and fallen on hard times, has now splintered and split into two.

Erik Samuelson, finance director of breakaway club AFC Wimbledon, is a very reasonable man. No doubt he would have sympathy for Winkelman's community-spirited urges. He just wishes he'd chosen another way of taking top-class football to the biggest place bar London in south-east England than grabbing the club he supported and transporting it lock, stock and barrel 70 miles up the motorway.

On May 28, 2002, an FA commission granted permission for Winkelman and his consortium, with the blessing of

Booming...breakaway AFC Wimbledon enjoy average crowds of 3,000 at their new home in nearby Kingston

club chairman Charles Koppel, to relocate Wimbledon FC Ltd to Milton Keynes. It seemed that that was that.

"Wimbledon fans did feel cheated by the commission," says Samuelson. "They felt the report was illogical and, in the final analysis, unfair. Without wanting to get sued, I would say that a number of statements in it were tendentious and it was difficult to follow the logic."

But whether the commission said it was OK or not to transplant the club, Samuelson feels that Wimbledon were deserted. "The management could have done a lot more to find a suitable home in the club's traditional base of South London," he says.

More consultation

Winkelman is not entirely inclined to disagree. "Yes, there should have been more consultation with fans at the time. I always said to the newspapers that if Wimbledon could have found a future in South London I'd have let them back out of the deal to move to Milton Keynes. But you have to remember, the club wasn't even in Wimbledon at the time and hadn't been since May 1991."

Following the sale of their original Plough Lane ground in Wimbledon, the club had been sitting tenants at Crystal Palace's Selhurst Park, over the other side of South London, unable, it seemed, to find a permanent residence. This was a club without a home and Winkelman was offering them one. Koppel felt he was fighting a losing financial battle with gates of around 7,000 and that a move to a town with larger potential support was the only option.

"Not necessarily," says Samuelson. "We were never told about the alternatives. Could we drop down, cut our cloth accordingly and rebuild our strength? Clubs have been run successfully on smaller average attendances. It was a failure by the management to demonstrate football should be a community-based game – they were unable to reflect that in their plans."

Winkelman disagrees. "All our feasibility studies show that with a quarter of a million population that's still growing rapidly, Milton Keynes needs a 25,000-seater stadium to cope with the likely demand for football. With the aid of so many people in this area, one is going to be built nearby. And we need a team to fill it. The people of Milton Keynes have real empathy with the plight of Wimbledon. because it's a new town where people have had to relocate for economic reasons."

Why did you have to nick a ready-made outfit, though?

"If you have a Football League club, then you're allowed to run a community scheme and an academy," Winkelman explains. "And that's a huge part of why it's important for this town to have its own club, to give local kids a chance. We knew the position Wimbledon were in. They had already looked at moving to Dublin, to Cardiff, to Brighton, to Gatwick. We also talked to Barnet and QPR, but at the end of the day there was only one homeless club in the league"

Losing their club

But that didn't help Samuelson or the other loyal Dons supporters, small in number but full of passion, who were going to lose their club.

"I spoke to Charles Koppel," he says. "I told him it was such a shame that this was happening and I couldn't possibly go and support the club in Milton Keynes. He said 'Why? Where do you live?' He thought it was just a question of location. He just didn't get it."

There was only one thing for it. A new club, AFC Wimbledon, was formed out of the blood, sweat and tears of die-hard supporters like Samuelson. Already they're playing regional, semi-professional soccer in the Combined Counties League, acquired the lease to Kingstonian FC's ground and became landlords of the nearby club, who play in the Ryman League – two rungs down from full Football League status. They attract gates of over 3,000, far better than the now sparse support of Wimbledon FC, dubbed Franchise FC, who ended up in administration and kicked off the new season back at Selhurst Park. There's even a share issue which has currently raised £1.2million. It's still open. And what's more, the fans feel the club really belongs to them.

"I'm responsible for match-day operations now," says Samuelson. "Do I get to see much of the game? No. But sometimes in the second half I'll stand behind the goal with my wife and two sons, think about what's happened, and I'm in heaven."

If and when Wimbledon FC finally move, they will have to use the national hockey stadium at Milton Keynes before they can begin life in the new ground.

"My ambition throughout all this was driven by the people of Milton Keynes," says Winkelman. "I don't know how I became a man on a mission. But I don't want to be remembered as someone who just talked about bringing major football to Milton Keynes but as the one who actually delivered it."

Temporary new home...the national hockey stadium awaits Wimbledon FC's arrival

DENMARK

OB open in style

THE NEW SUPERLIGA season brought a whirlwind start for ambitious OB Odense, who beat Frem 2-0 in their opening game then recorded a dramatic 4-2 victory away to reigning champions FC Copenhagen. Striker Steffen Hojer scored twice as OB survived the 54th-minute dismissal of midfielder Nicolai Stokholm to become the early leaders.

OB, coached by Uffe Pedersen, believe they have a team equipped to challenge the heavyweights from the capital, especially with the flair of Zambian duo Andrew Tembo and Mwape Miti. The latter scored in both the first two matches.

The major concern surrounds the average age of the team – 30-plus – epitomised by new signing Steen Nedergaard, a veteran defender returning to Denmark from Norwich in England.

Brondby also won their opening two matches, although both were against promoted clubs Frem and Herfolge.

Nordsjaelland drew their first couple of games since changing their name from Farum, a move partly made with the hope of attracting larger crowds. However, a meagre 2,092 turned up to the first home game, suggesting that the 'revolution' has some way to go.

Controversy loomed over the Superliga opening games after a pre-season bust-up between two AGF Aarhus players. Club skipper Brian Steen Nielsen, capped 66 times by Denmark before retiring at the last World Cup, butted team-mate Nicolai Hust as tempers flared on the training ground. Steen Nielsen was swiftly fined by AGF and stripped of the captaincy. But the club kept him on the payroll, while it was Hust who departed after having his contract paid up.

An AGF statement said: "We clearly condemn any kind of violence on the pitch as well as outside it, though we realise that football is a contact sport, where the players involved may have difficulties controlling their emotions from time to time."

That may not be the end of the matter, however, with the police saying Steen Nielsen could face prosecution despite the fact that no one had pressed charges.

Jim Holden

Flying start...Zambian star Mwape Miti (left) scored in both OB's first two games

Off to Turkey...Miika Multaharju

FINLAND

Tsar's the star for Haka

RUSSIAN FORWARD Valery Popovitch has once again been the star of the show as FC Haka opened up a seven-point gap at the top of the League. The evergreen 'Tsar', now 33, has linked up particularly well with Estonian winger Sergei Terehhov.

Haka had lost only once in their first 14 League games, scoring 34 goals and conceding just five. "Teamwork is the key," says coach Olli Huttunen. "We have been lucky to avoid serious injuries and the team looks well-balanced. But we are not counting our chickens. There is still a long way to go."

Second-placed HJK Helsinki had the misfortune to lose both their father-and-son playing combination within a short space of time. Alexei Eremenko junior injured a knee in a Champions League qualifier against Glentoran, while his father, also Alexei, was loaned to FF Jaro for the remainder of the season.

MyPa, who have been a major disappointment in recent weeks, have sold midfielder Miika Multaharju to Turkey's Denizlispor.

As expected, national coach Antti Muurinen has signed a new contract which will take him to 2006. "We had to rule out big-name foreign coaches," said FA chairman Pekka Hamalainen, "and in Finland, there is nobody at the moment who could seriously challenge Antti's position. But our pool of top-class players is still quite small. Injuries to key men such as Jari Litmanen, Mikael Forssell and Teemu Tainio partly ruined our qualifiers for next year's Euro Championship."

Pentti Hietanen

SWEDEN

Blomqvist in at champions

Jesper Blomqvist has chosen champions Djurgardens as his new club ahead of IFK Gothenburg, where he first made his name, after being released by Premiership club Charlton.

The former Sweden winger's arrival is a boost to the Stockholm side's push to retain their title since, despite his injury woes, he is one of the few Swedes able to produce star quality.

Djurgardens, the only truly aggressive and ambitious Swedish operators in the transfer market, also signed Dutch forward Geert den Ouden from RBC Roosendaal and promising defender Fredrik Stenman from Elfsborg.

In the League, Djurgardens were sitting pretty at the top after 16 rounds with near neighbours AIK trailing in their wake in sixth place.

AIK have received much criticism for their over-aggressive play – even from their own coach, Richard Money. They were denied the services of three key players through suspension for their home derby with Hammarby in early August, which they lost 3-1.

Orgryte have sold midfielder Jeffrey Aubynn to Denmark's AGF Aarhus.

Pentti Hietanen

NORWAY

Brann bounce back

Brann's impressive 2-2 draw away to League leaders Rosenborg in August exemplified their turn in fortunes since the summer break, having struggled among the relegation candidates during the first half of the season. The Bergen side are now much improved, with the signings of Raymond Kvisvik from Austria Wien and Cato Guntveit (Aberdeen) clearly giving them a boost.

Nobody expected Brann to take anything from the game in Trondheim, but amazingly they took a 2-0 lead through goals from Kvisvik and Helge Haugen, before Rosenborg clawed their way back to snatch a point.

Lowly Tromso, who had shocked Rosenborg by inflicting their first defeat of the season in mid-July, then lost their next two games to go bottom of the League.

Sigurd Odegaard

ICELAND

IA face the drop

IA Akranes, who won the championship only two years ago, have found themselves in a grim relegation battle. With six games remaining they were two points above the drop zone after a string of poor results.

At the top, champions KR are free to concentrate on their head-to-head battle with Fylkir after losing to Armenia's Pyunik Yerevan in the Champions League first qualifying round.

Eyjolfur Sverrisson has followed Gudni Bergsson in announcing his international retirement, a double blow for Iceland as they strive for qualification to Euro 2004. The two players have 146 caps between them.

Rab Christie

ESTONIA

Teenage Kink's off to Moscow

Tarmo Kink, who became the youngest player to score in the top division last year, has joined Moscow Spartak at just 17. The forward has signed a five-year contract with the former Russian champions from Fifth Division side SC Real Tallinn. Kink broke the top-division scoring record in April lasat year when on loan to Trans Narva, hitting the net aged 16 years 196 days.

Another Estonian forward, 25-year-old Player of the Year Andres Oper, has also moved to Russia, joining Torpedo Moscow from AaB Aalborg of Denmark on a two-and-a-half-year contract.

Andres Must

NORTHERN IRELAND

Goal trouble undoes Glens

Glentoran matched Finnish opponents HJK Helsinki in both legs of their Champions League first round clash, but their inability to score – a familiar failing in Europe – allowed the Finns to edge the tie 1-0 on aggregate.

UEFA Cup entrants Coleraine have signed Lisburn Distillery defender Gary Haveron and Linfield midfielder Russell Kelly, though the latter will not be available until October because of business commitments.

National team manager Sammy McIlroy has been handed a contract extension until December 2005, the end of the qualifying campaign for the next World Cup. McIlroy has already held the post for four years.

Roy Kitson

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Keely lands at Derry

Dermot Keely has been appointed as manager of Premier Division strugglers Derry City following the dismissal of Kevin Mahon. Derry are the 11th Eircom League club to be managed by Keely, who joins after a successful spell with First Division Kildare County. He has already won the championship with three different clubs: Shamrock Rovers, Dundalk and Shelbourne.

A change of club has not brought a change of fortune for Pat Dolan in the FAI Cup. The former St Patrick's Athletic boss has been very unlucky in the competition, and this season was no different as his new club, Cork City, went out in the first round at home to League leaders Shelbourne.

Sean Creedon

LIECHTENSTEIN

Ralf cut loose

National coach Ralf Loose has surprisingly been sacked by the newly-appointed FA management. A spokesperson claimed the German was not interested in constructive dialogue, while president Reinhard Walser said Loose had lost the confidence of the management, sponsors and team.

Vaduz coach Walter Hormann will take over on an interim basis. Hormann, who retains his club job, will be in charge for the three remaining European Championship qualifiers; a decision on a long-term appointee will be made at the end of the year.

Vaduz have sold midfielder Thomas Beck to fellow Swiss Second Division side Chiasso and brought in Manuel Rivera from Malcantone Agno.

Graeme Crawford

Fashanu quits as Barry boss

End of an era...Jon French

WALES

JOHN FASHANU, chairman of champions Barry Town since December last year, has resigned citing an increase in his media commitments. The announcement came shortly after a Sunday newspaper alleged the former Wimbledon and Aston Villa striker had been involved in fixing matches abroad. Fashanu has denied any involvement.

His departure could leave Barry in a precarious financial situation, especially since they still owe money on their clubhouse.

The team recorded a consolation 2-1 win over Macedonia's Vardar in the Champions League first round second leg having lost the first leg 3-0.

Barry have released long-serving wing-back Gary Lloyd and striker Jon French as they seek to reduce the average age of their squad. Lloyd, who leads the Welsh Premier League appearance record with 356, has since been linked with Newport County.

Caersws chairman Garth Williams has also resigned amid rumours that a rival group is bidding to take over the club.

Mel Thomas

SERBIA & MONTENEGRO

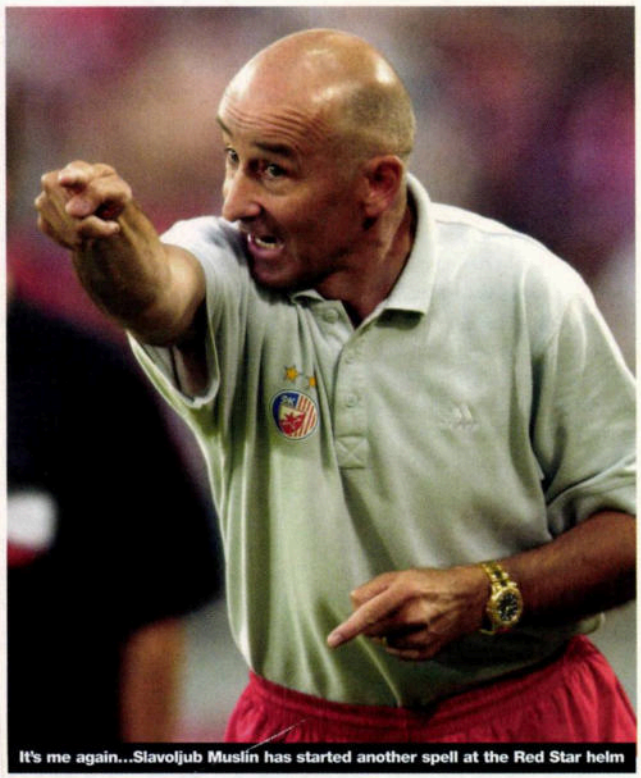
Don't look beyond Partizan and Red Star

THE NEW LEAGUE season kicked off with two significant changes. First, the top flight has been reduced from 18 clubs to 16 in an attempt to improve quality and competitiveness. Secondly, the state finally passed a law against hooliganism. Violence will be punished with prison sentences of from three months to five years.

As for the title race, there are again only two serious candidates: champions Partizan Belgrade and city rivals Red Star. The latter's biggest close-season signing was coach Slavoljub Muslin, who led the club to the League title in 2000 and 2001 during a previous spell in charge. Meanwhile, Manchester United's Bojan Djordjic, a Swedish Under-21 midfielder of Serb origin (his father Ranko played for Red Star in the early 1980s), has joined on a one-year loan.

Partizan successfully negotiated their Champions League second qualifying round encounter with Djurgardens of Sweden. However, they did not impress, going through only on away goals after a 3-3 aggregate draw. Newcastle now lie in the way of the team being the first from Serbia & Montenegro to make it to the group stage.

Vladimir Novak



It's me again...Slavoljub Muslin has started another spell at the Red Star helm

CROATIA

Dudu done good

Legendary former national team coach Miroslav Blazevic has often been heard to say that Croatian footballers are the 'Brazilians of Europe'. Ironically, a previously little-known Brazilian has been wowing Croatians as the new season got under way.

Dinamo Zagreb striker Dudu has so impressed that national team coach Otto Baric has said: "The Brazilian should be offered a Croatian passport; he's going to be world class."

Dudu, 20, has already reaped material rewards for his great start to the season, receiving an expensive watch from Dinamo vice-president Zdravko Mamic after his displays in the 4-1 victory over Hajduk Split in the Super Cup and the 7-0 thrashing of Marsonia in their second League game.

Dudu is in his third year in Croatia but had previously played only for Dinamo's satellite teams, Sesvete and Inker. He was handed a first-team spot at the senior club following the return of Bosko Balaban to Aston Villa and the departure of Ivica Olic for CSKA Moscow.

Rijeka sacked coach Vjekoslav Lokica after just one League game, a 1-0 home defeat by Cibalia. The decision was all the more surprising since Lokica saved the club from relegation last season.

His replacement is former Southampton goalkeeper Ivan Katalinic, who has now taken charge of a record six top-flight Croatian clubs.

Zdravko Reic

MACEDONIA

Ilievski pays the final bill

National coach Nikola Ilievski has been sacked after the federation expressed its dissatisfaction with the team's Euro 2004 qualifying results. Macedonia have taken just five points from six games and are out of contention for even a play-off place.

Ilievski's case was hardly helped when it emerged that he and his entourage had run up a tab of more than £600 for alcohol in their hotel ahead of the home game against Liechtenstein in June and then, with the waiters' collusion, had the drinks itemised as fruit juices on the bill.

Mirsad Jonuz has been named as Under-21s coach. He succeeds Zarko Odzakov, who left with Macedonia yet to register a point in the European Championship qualifiers.

Gifted youngster Goran Pandev has gone on a season's loan to promoted Serie A side Ancona from Internazionale, while former Sloga Jugomagnat midfielder Nderim Nedzipi has joined Wolfsburg from Hertha Berlin.

There were two upsets in the first round of the Macedonian Cup. Former winners Sileks were knocked out by promoted Madzari Solidarnost, and another promoted team, Baskimi, crashed out to lower division Lozar Kriva Palanka.

Michel Stojmanovski

ROMANIA

Balint drops out of Poli

Former international Gavril Balint resigned as coach of Politechnika AEK only a month after taking charge and before the new season had even got under way because of the club's financial problems.

The 40-year-old had joined Poli after leading Serif Tiraspol to the Moldovan title last term, but soon became disenchanted with the state of the club.

"I don't want to be a part of this mess," said Balint. "I am sorry I came here and that I didn't leave earlier. It was obvious that there are not the necessary conditions for success. There is no money or training ground."

Balint's successor is Viorel Visan, a former player with Poli, who survived in the top flight last season only after winning a play-off against a promotion candidate.

Champions Rapid Bucharest won the first silverware of the new season when beating Cup holders and city rivals Dinamo 1-0 in the Super Cup.

Dinamo have bought two foreign defenders – Frenchman Xavier Meride, recently at Creteil, and Nigerian Samuel Okunowo, from Ionikos in Greece – following the departure of teenage defender Gabriel Tamas to Galatasaray.

Steaua Bucharest have taken on Belorussia goalkeeper Vasili Hamutovski from German Second Division side Waldof Mannheim.

Michael Bowesfield

In **BULGARIA**, Premier League clubs have rejected a proposal to reduce the size of the division to 10 teams from 16.

Eleven of the current members voted against the plan, which had been drawn up with a view to helping counter the threat of corruption and increase interest.

Champions CSKA Sofia have bought regular Brazilian Under-21 midfielder Leo Lima from Vasco da Gama.